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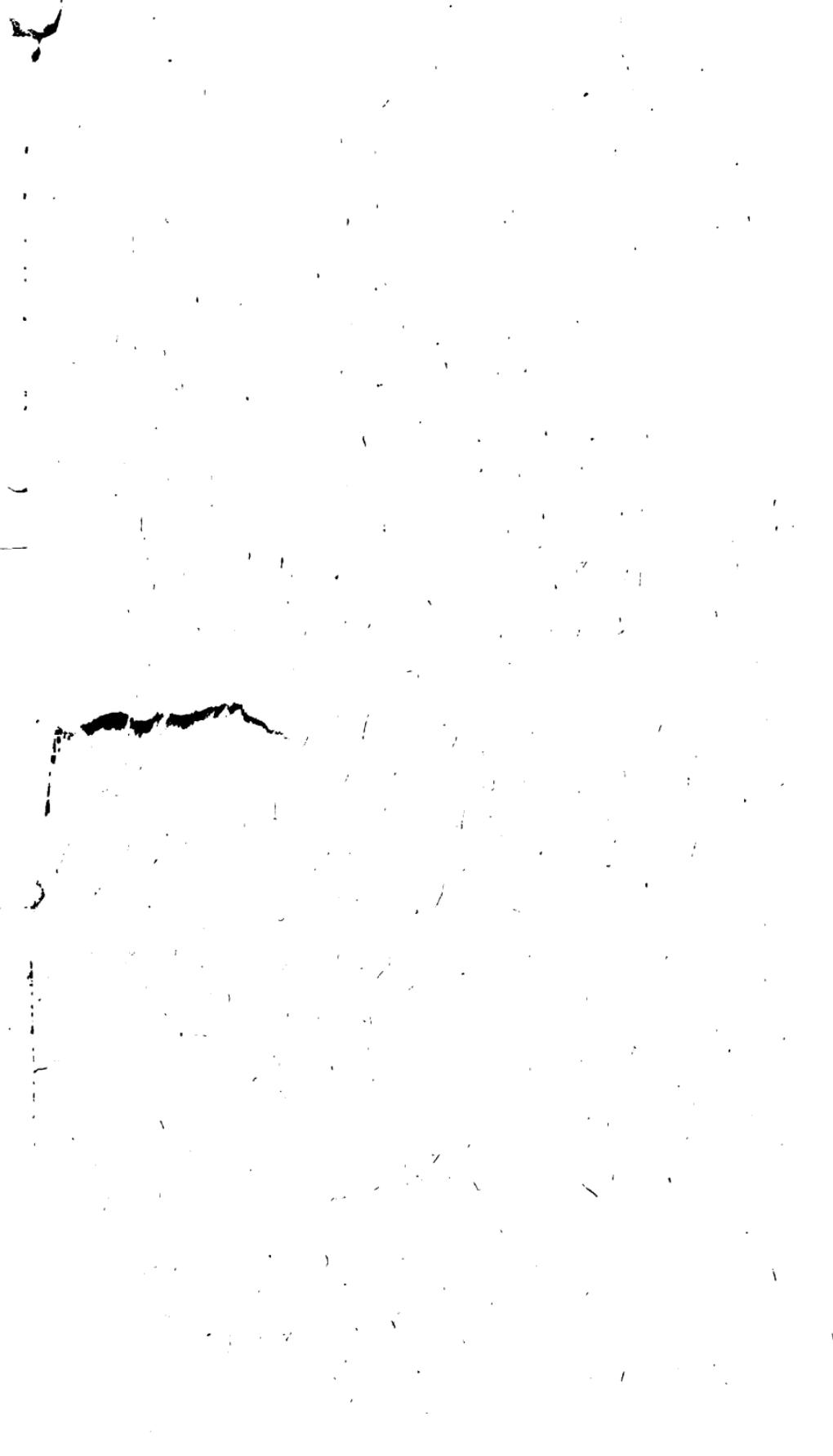
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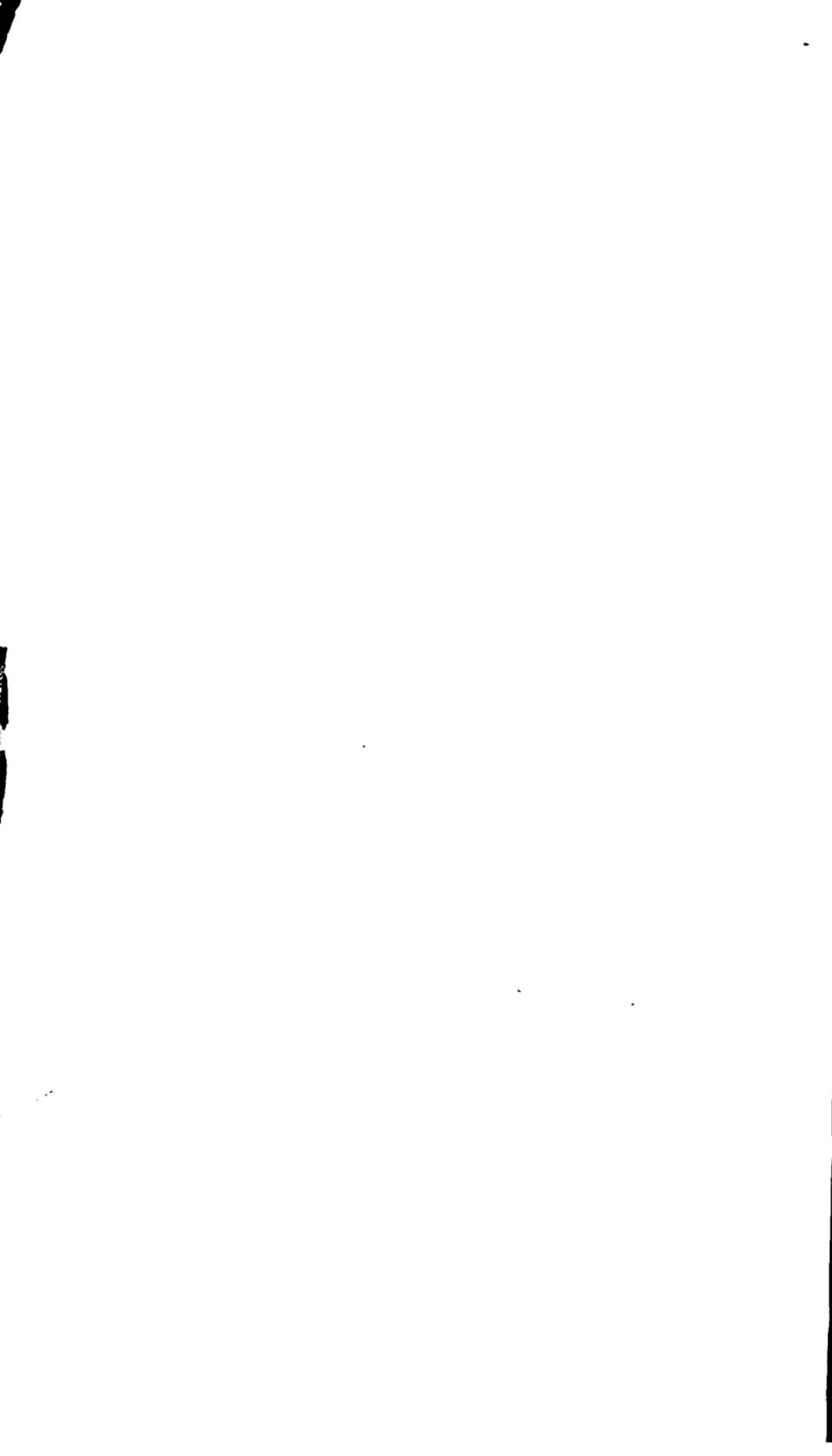
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Cavan

Cavan







STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF CAVAN,
WITH
OBSERVATIONS
ON
THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT;
DRAWN UP IN THE YEAR 1801,
FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF
The Dublin Society,

Scire tuum nihil est, nisi te scire hoc sciat alter.

PERSIUS SAT. I.



PRINTED BY GRAISBERRY AND CAMPBELL,

NO. 10, BACK-LANE.

1802.

284626

TO THE READER.

1908

This REPORT is at present printed and circulated for the purpose merely of procuring further information, respecting the state and busbandry of this district, and of enabling every one interested in the welfare of this country, to examine it fully, and contribute his mite to its improvement.

The Society do not deem themselves pledged to any opinion given by the Author of this Survey; and they desire, that nothing contained in it be considered as their sentiments; they have only published it, as the report of the gentleman, whose name is affixed, and they publish it, for the comments and observations of all persons, which they entreat to be given freely, and without reserve.

It is therefore requested, that the observations on reading this work may be returned to the Dublin Society, as soon as may be convenient, and which will meet with the fullest attention in a future edition.

DEDICATION.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

PHILIP EARL OF HARDWICKE,

LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL, AND GENERAL GOVERNOR
OF IRELAND,

PRESIDENT OF THE DUBLIN SOCIETY,

&c. &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

AS I am deeply sensible of the distinguished honour, which your Excellency has conferred on me, by so kindly permitting the following work to be dedicated to your Excellency, so am I particularly happy as an individual, to embrace this opportunity of expressing the grateful sense of obligation which is felt, by your Lordship's attention to the completion of the Statistical Surveys

DEDICATION.

of Ireland. Inadequate as have been my exertions for the elucidation of so important a subject, yet in this instance, under such exalted protection, it will doubtless be a stimulus to others, to contribute their information towards the perfection of a work of such general utility, to which your Lordship looks forward with an anxious concern, and an earnest co-operation with the Dublin Society, whose patriotic exertions for the improvement of our soil, and the extension of our agriculture, have never been more eminently successful than under your Excellency's respected presidency.

That these important concerns may be long under the happy influence of so competent a ruler, is the true wish of his Majesty's loyal subjects of Ireland, and of none more sincerely than of him, who with all possible deference has the honour to subscribe himself,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's most truly devoted,
and most faithful;

humble servant,

CHARLES COOTE.

P R E F A C E.

IN the happy moment of returning peace, in this enlightened era, when knowledge is more generally and universally disseminated, when the licentiousness, which disgraced the close of the last century, has been crushed in his Majesty's favoured realms, by the steady administration of justice, and the firmness of our government, the minds of the people must again return to their true interests, the improvement of our soil, and the extension of our agriculture.

Was the subject of the following sheets to be confined to the theory of husbandry, it would never have been undertaken by so inexperienced a hand; but in the Statistical Surveys of the counties of Ireland, much more is necessary to be shewn, considerably more indeed, than it is in the power of an individual to accomplish. How then are we to attain the knowledge of ourselves, but by a general concurrence, and that each individual shall according to his abilities join his mite in so important a concern?

It

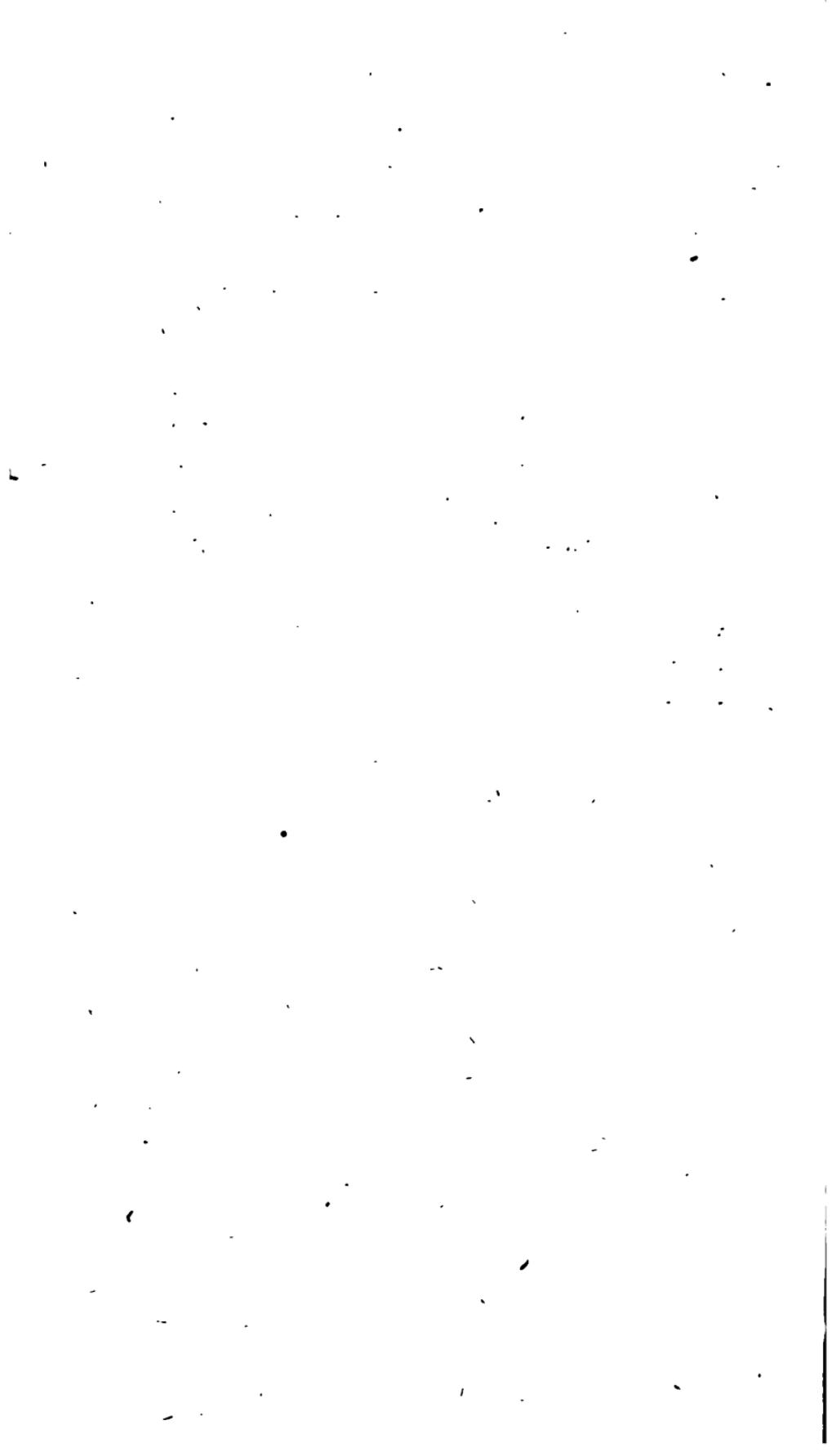
PREFACE.

It may be a weary task, and doubtless it is, to compile the various opinions of farmers on the subject of agriculture, and the state of their country; and difficult indeed, if not impracticable, to clearly distinguish facts, in so contradictory and too often partial information; this requires a perseverance and assiduity, which is all the merit the Author can claim: the ground-work being laid by this minute enquiry, it will be an easy matter to make a correct statement in another edition, if the gentlemen and experienced farmers of the county, to which it relates, join their remarks and correct the errors, which doubtless must be found. It is indeed the duty of every capable person to contribute to the Statistical Surveys of Ireland; the bright example of the first magistrate of the country patronizing such a work, must evince its importance, and the pure and respectable society, who contribute their purse and their unwearied patriotic exertions for our prosperity, have in no instance been more earnestly engaged, than in the furtherance and completion of this design; I trust then, that such high and exalted patronage, such laudable and patriotic views shall not be fruitless in this county, where the true interests of the trade of the

the staple commodity of the nation are so well understood, and where there are so many gentlemen capable of giving such valuable information, as well of the agriculture as of the manufacture of the county.

If these desirable and sanguine wishes shall be fulfilled, then indeed would a work of intrinsic merit appear, which would doubtless be of the first importance to agriculture, a science which requires not the panegyric of my feeble pen; the world is now convinced, that the happiness and wealth, or the misery and poverty of a nation depend on the proper or improper occupation of her soil, and that the produce of the fields is the truest dependence of commerce, and the surest support of the state.

SUGGESTIONS



SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF
AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Situation and Extent,
Divisions,
Climate,
Soil and Surface,
Minerals,
Water.

AGRICULTURE.

Mode of culture,
Extent of it, and of each species of grain sowed,
Course of crops,
Use of oxen—how harnessed,
Nature and use of implements of husbandry,
Markets for grain,
Use of green food in winter.

PASTURE.

Nature of it.
Breed of cattle—how far improved,
— — — how far capable of further improvement,
Markets or Fairs for them,

General

SUGGESTIONS

General prices,
Modes of feeding—how far housed in winter,
Natural grasses,
Artificial grasses,
Mode of hay-making,
Dairies, their produce,
Prices of hides, tallow, wool, and quantity sold.

F FARMS.

Their size,
Farm houses and offices,
Mode of repairing them, whether by landlord or tenant,
Nature of tenures,
General state of leases,
 ————— of particular clauses therein,
Taxes or Cesses paid by tenants,
Proportion of working horses or bullocks, to the size of farms,
General size of fields, or enclosures,
Nature of fences,
Mode of hedge-rows, and keeping hedges,
Mode of draining,
Nature of manures.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population,
Number and size of villages and towns,
Habitation, fuel, food and cloathing of the lower rank—their general cost,
Price of wages, labour and provisions,
State of tithe, its general amount on each article—what articles are exempt, and what charged by modus,
Use of beer and spirits—whether either or which is increasing,
State of roads, bridges, &c.
 ————— of navigations and navigable rivers,
 ————— of fisheries,

State

OF ENQUIRY.

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- State of education, schools; and charitable institutions,
- of absentee and resident proprietors,
- of circulation of money or paper,
- of farming or agricultural societies,
- of manufactures, whether increasing,
- of encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptness of the situation for their extension,
- of mills of every kind,
- of plantations and planting,
- of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given to them by the Society, particularised in the list annexed.
- of any improvements which may occur for future encouragement, and particularly for the preservation of the trees, when planted,
- of nurseries within the county and extent of sales.

Price of timber and state of it, in the county,

Quantity of bog and waste ground,

Possibility and means of improving it,

Obstacles to it and best means of removing them,

Habits of industry, or want of industry among the people,

The use of the English language, whether general, or how far increasing.

Account of towers, castles, monasteries, ancient buildings, or places remarkable for any historical event,

Churches—resident clergy, glebes and glebe houses,

Whether the county has been actually surveyed, when and whether the survey is published.

Weights and measures, liquid or dry—in what instances are weights assigned for measures—or *vice versa*.

The weight or measure, by which grain, flour, potatoes, butter, &c. are sold.



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E R R A T A.

Page 33 line 14, for *cafting* read *lafting*.
119 — 2, for *acquired* read *required*.
220 2d. and 3d. lines from the bottom, for *absurb* read
abſurd.
221 2d. line from the bottom, for *Ballgreen* read *Bell-*
green.
223 line 13, for *toots* read *rots*.
251 — 9, for *agens* read *agents*.
265 — 12, for *different* read *different*.

INTRODUCTION.

INTRODUCTION.

CAVAN has been celebrated in the histories of the wars of Ireland for its fastnesses, woods, bogs, and all the natural impediments which are so formidable in warfare; but it had very little else to recommend it, until the linen manufacture was engaged in, which has now acquired such a firm foundation—Nor is there much notice made of this county in the ancient reports, until in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James, a pretty minute political enquiry was made by Sir John Davies then Attorney-General.

It may therefore be acceptable to recite so much from his historical tracts as relate to this county, which are as follows:

“ As for Cavan, otherwise called Breny Orelie or O'Relies Country, the late troubles had so unsettled the possessions thereof, which indeed were never well distinguished and established, as it was doubtful in whom the chieffrie of that country rested, or if the chief lord had been known, yet was it as uncertain what demesnes, or duties he ought to

" have. And for the particular tenants, they were so many times removed and rejected, as their titles and possessions were as doubtful as the lords. True it is, that Sir John Perrott being deputy purposed the reformation and settling of this country ; and to that end, indentures were drawn between himself, in behalf of the late queen, on the one part, and Sir John O'Relie, then chief lord of the country, on the other ; whereby Sir John O'Relie did covenant to surrender the whole unto the queen, and Sir John Perrott, on the other part, did covenant, that letters patent should be made unto him of the whole. Howbeit, there followed no effect of this : for neither was there any surrender made by Sir John O'Relie, neither was there any patent granted unto him, during Sir John Perrott's time, marry afterwards, when the late Lord Chancellor, and Sir Henry Wallop, were Lords Justices, certain commissioners were sent down to divide the country into baronies and to settle the chief Septs and families therein ; which they did in this manner : The whole country being divided into, seven baronies, they assigned two unto Sir John O'Relie, free from all public charges and contributions ; a third barony they allotted to Philip O'Relie, brother to Sir John O'Relie ; a fourth to Edmond O'Relie, uncle

a cle to Sir John O'Relie; a fifth to the sons of one Hugh O'Relie surnamed the Prior: and out of the three baronies, whereof Sir John O'Relie was not possessed, they reserved unto him a chief rent of ten shillings out of every poll (being a portion of land containing three score acres or thereabouts) in lieu of all Irish cuttings and taxes. As for the other two baronies possessed by the Septs of M'Renon, and M'Gaurol, being remote and bordering upon O'Rorke's country, they were neglected and left subject still to the Irish exactions of the chief lord; but to the crown they reserved upon the whole country 220 beeves, which the deputy ever since hath taken for his provision. This division, or establishment, was made and reduced to writing, as one of the commissioners, who is yet living, told me; who told me withal, that they were well paid for their pains: for he, that had least, had an hundred fat beeves given him by the country; yet cannot we find any return of this commission, either in the Council Book, or in the Chancery. So as hitherto there were only projects made for the settling of the country, but nothing was really and effectually done; none of the rules and ceremonies of the law observed, either by accepting surrenders, or regranting the land back again, or by any other lawful

"conveyance, or execution of estates. After this Sir John O'Relie died in rebellion; whereupon his brother Philip O'Relie took upon him the name of O'Relie, and possessed himself of the country as Tannist and chief Lord, according to the Irish custom; and being so possessed, was slain in rebellion: after his death, Edmond O'Relie, his uncle, entered in like manner, and was killed in actual rebellion. Since the death of Edmond, none of that ¹Sept was elected or created O'Relie, but the chieftain of the country stood doubtful till the end of the wars: then a niece of the Earl of Ormond being the widow of Mulmora O'Relie (eldest son of Sir John O'Relie, which Mulmora had been always loyal, and was slain on the Queen's part), supposing that Sir John O'Relie held the country by grant, from the late queen (which indeed he never did), caused an inquisition to be taken, whereby it was found, that Sir John O'Relie was seized of the country in fee, and died seized; after whose death, the country descended to Mulmora, who likewise died seized, his heir being within age and his majesty's ward: thereupon she made suit to Sir George Cary, then Lord-Deputy, as well for the grant of the wardship, as for the assignment of her dower; whereas indeed, the land never descended, according to

INTRODUCTION.

" to the course of the common law; but now was ever held by Tannis, according to the Irish custom, whereby there could grow neither wardships nor dower. For, the Tannist coming in by election, neither did his heir ever inherit, neither was his wife ever endowed. Howbeit, Sir George Cary, by a warrant from the Council Table only, did assign unto her the third part of the profit of the country, and gave her withal the custody of the body of her son, but the custody of the land during the King's pleasure he committed unto one Mulmora O'Relie, great uncle to the supposed ward, whereof the poor gentleman hath made little benefit, because not being created O'Relie by them, they would not suffer him to cut and exact, like an Irish lord, neither would they suffer him to receive the establishment made by the commissioners, because it had been broken and rejected by Philip and Edmond, who since held the country as Tannist, or Irish chieftains. In these uncertain terms, stood the possessions of Brevye, which we now call the county of Cavan."²

After a recital of his circuit through Fermanagh and Monaghan counties, Sir John Davies gives an account of his proceedings in Cavan as follows, viz.

" Having spent six or seven days in this waste country, we raised our camp, and returned

" turned the same way, which we had passed before, into the county of Monaghan, and lodging the second night not far from the Abbey of Clonays, we came the third day to Cavan, and pitched our tents on the south side of that poor Irish town. The appearance of this place was very full, for not only the natives of the county of Cavan, but also, many inhabitants of Westmeath and other parts of the pale bordering upon this country, whereof some pretended title to land, others came to demand debts, and others to give evidence against felons, repaired to this session, the chief of which was the Baron of Delvyn, who came attended with many followers.

My Lord-Deputy having a purpose to pursue the same course in the service here, which had been holden in the other two counties, caused forthwith a commission to be drawn and passed the Seal, whereby the Judges of assize, and others, were authorised to enquire of all lands escheated to the crown in this county by attainder, outlawry, or actual killing in rebellion of any person: or by any other means whatsoever. For the dispatch of this busines, a jury was impannelled of the best Knights and Gentlemen that were present; whereof some were foreign inhabitants of the pale; and, yet freeholders of this county;

" county ; and the rest were the chief of every Irish Sept, natives of this county ; we received two presentments from them : the first of sundry freeholders, who were slain in the late rebellion, and of such lands as they were severally seized of at the same time of their killings ; the second was, that Philip O'Relie, who was, according to the custom of the country, created O'Relie, and was Lord or Chieftain of the whole country, being seized of all lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Breney O'Relie, *in Dominio suo ut de feodo & jure*. (for these are the words of the inquisition), was slain in actual rebellion : and, again they found, that after the death of Philip, one Edmund O'Relie was, after the like custom of the country, created O'Relie, and was in like manner seized of the country ; and being so seized, was slain in rebellion ; also they found lastly, that Sir John O'Relie, who was Chieftain and Tannist of the country, long before Philip and Edmond did adhere to the Earl of Tyrone, and other rebels ; and died an actual rebel against the crown. This Inquisition was found with some difficulty, because the jurors themselves, all claiming and pretending to be freeholders of land within that county, were jealous, lest their particular freeholds might be found escheated by this office ; because, in time of rebellion, these

"these Lords or Chieftains, by their Irish cuttings and exactions, took the profits of the whole country at their pleasure, and so might be said to be seized of all the country in Demesne, when they were slain in rebellion: But some of the jury being learned in the law, informed the rest, that by the words, *in Dominio suo ut de foedo & jure*, not only lands in Demesne, or possession, but a seniory or chieffry may be understood, and thereupon they were content to put their seals to the Inquisition, which being drawn and engrossed in parchment, by one of the Commissioners, was presented unto them. By these two offices the greatest part of this county, if not all, is vested in possession of the crown; but because my Lord-Deputy conceived his Majesty's pleasure to be, that the natives of the country, to whom his Highness had granted his general pardon, shall be re-established in their possessions, which they peaceably held, before the late war (albeit I do not understand that his Lordship hath any particular direction touching the disposition of this country of Breny O'Relie); his Lordship therefore thought fit to look back to the time before the rebellion; and to inform himself how every man's possession stood at that time, and thereupon commanded of us to take the like pains as were taken in Fermanagh,

" managh, and in the like order and method to distinguish the possessors and possessions of this country, which was the more easily performed, because in the Irish countries, where the custom of tannistry is not extinguished, the tenures are every where alike. There is first a general chieftain of every country, or territory, which hath some demesnes, and many household provisions yielded unto him by all the inhabitants; under him every sept or surname hath a particular chieftain or tannist, which has likewise his peculiar demesnes and duties, and their possessions go by succession or election entirely, without any division: but all the other lands, holden by the inferior inhabitants, are partable in course of Gavelkind, wherein there is no difference made between legitimate sons and bastards; and therefore both these customs, both of Tannistry and Gavelkind, in this kingdom, are lately, by the opinion of all the Judges here, adjudged to be utterly void in law;*

and

* In Hilary Term, 3 of James I. See Sir J. Davies's Reports, p. 40. The Irish Gavelkind, which was extremely different from the same custom in Kent, was declared by all the Judges to be void in law; not only for its *inconvenience* and *unreasonableness*, but because it was a mere personal custom, which tended to alter the descent of inheritances, contrary to the course of the common law, which King James had, with a wise policy, extended over all the Irish countries.

" and as they are void, so shall they be shortly avoided and extinguished, either by surrender or resumption of all the lands, which are so holden.

My Lord-Deputy having received the like survey of the lands, and the like distinction or list of the freeholders in this country, as was presented to his Lordship in M'Guyre's* country, deferred the disposition and settling thereof until his return to Dublin, having a purpose in Michaelmas term to make a perfect establishment of these three counties.

The state of the lay possessions being discovered, we did not omit to enquire of the number and value of the parsonages and vicarages, of the reparation of the churches, and of the quality of their incumbents; by which inquisition we found, that the greatest number of the parsonages are appropriate unto two great abbeys lying within the English pale, viz. the abbey of Fower in Westmeath, granted to the Baron of Delvyn, and the abbey of Kells, whereof one Gerarde Flemynge is farmer. To the first of these fourteen parsonages within this county are appropriate, and to the other eight, besides there are two or three more belonging in like manner to the abbey of Cavan, in this county, being now in possession of Sir James Dillon. As for the vicarages,

they

* Fermanagh.

" they are so poorly endowed, as ten of them being united will scarce suffice to maintain an honest minister. For the churches, they are for the most part in ruins; such as were presented to be in reparation, are covered only with thatch. But the incumbents, both parsons and vicars, did appear to be such poor, ragged, ignorant creatures (for we saw many of them in the camp) as we could not esteem any of them worthy of the meanest of those livings; albeit many of them are not worth above 40s. per annum. This country doth lie within the diocese of Kilmore, whose bishop (Robert Draper) was and is parson of Trym, in Meath, which is the best parsonage in all the kingdom; and is a man of this country birth, worth well nigh 400l. a-year: he doth live now in these parts, where he hath two bishoprics; but there is no divine service or sermon to be heard within either of his dioceses. His Lordship might have saved us this labour of enquiry, touching matters ecclesiastical, if he had been as careful to see the churches repaired and supplied with good incumbents, as he is diligent in visiting his barbarous clergy, to make benefit out of their unsufficiency, according to the proverb, which is common in the mouth of one of our great bishops here; *that an Irish Priest is better than a milch cow.*

Lastly,

“ Lastly, our gaol-delivery was greater in this county, and the civil causes were more in number, and of better consideration and value, than those that did arise in the other two shires, which we had past before; yet we finished all our business here within five or six days, and after returned to Dublin about the 22d of August. This report of our service in the county of Cavan, I have contracted and delivered summarily, as well for that I doubt I have been too large in the preceding discourse, as also, because we held an uniform proceeding, and did, in a manner, the same things, which we had performed in the other places of sessions.”

As Sir John Davies's Letter to the Earl of Salisbury particularly relates to this county, I shall also take leave to subjoin it.

L E T T E R

FROM

SIR JOHN DAVIES.

My most honourable good Lord.

THOUGH I perform this duty, of advertising your Lordship how we proceed in the plantation of Ulster, very late; yet I cannot accuse myself either of sloth, or forgetfulness, in that behalf; but my true excuse is the slow dispatch of Sir Oliver Lambert from hence, into whose hands I thought to have given these letters more than a month since.

In the perambulation, which we made this summer over the escheated counties in Ulster, we performed four principal points of our commission.

1. First, the land assigned to the natives, we distributed among the natives, in different quantities and portions, according to their different qualities and deserts.

2. Next,

2. Next, we made the like distribution of the lands allotted to the servitors.

3. Thirdly, we published by proclamation in each county, what lands were granted to British undertakers, and what to servitors, and what to natives : to the end that the natives should remove from the precincts allotted to the Britons, whereupon a clear plantation is to be made of English and Scottish, without Irish, and to settle upon the lands assigned to natives and servitors, where there shall be mixed plantation of English and Irish together.

4. Lastly, to the British undertakers, who are for the most part come over, we gave seizen and possession of their several portions ; and assigned them timber for their several buildings.

We began at the Cavan, where (as it falleth out in all matters of importance) we found the first access and entry into the business the most difficult. Of our proceeding here, my report to your Lordship shall be the larger, because the best precinct in this county fell to your Lordship's lot to be disposed ; and the undertakers thereof do still expect to be by your Lordship countenanced and protected. The inhabitants of this country do border upon the English pale, where they have many acquaintances and alliances ; by means whereof

they

they have learned to talk of a freehold, and of estates of inheritance, which the poor natives of Fermanagh and Tyrconnel could not speak of; although these men had no other, nor better estate than they; that is, only a scambling and transitory possession, at the pleasure of the chief of every sept.

When the proclamation was published touching their removal (which was done in the public session-house, the Lord Deputy and Commissioners being present,) a lawyer of the pale, retained by them, did endeavour to maintain, that they had estates of inheritance in their possessions, which their chief lords could not forfeit; and therefore, in their name, desired two things: first, that they might be admitted to traverse the offices which had been found of those lands; secondly, that they might have the benefit of a proclamation made about five years since, whereby the persons, lands, and goods, of all his Majesty's subjects, were taken into his royal protection.

To this the King's attorney, being commanded by the Lord Deputy, made answer: That he was glad this occasion was offered, of declaring and setting forth his Majesty's just title, as well for his Majesty's honour (who, being the most just Prince living, would not dispossess the meanest of his subjects wrongfully, to gain many such kingdoms,) as for the satisfaction
of

of the natives themselves, and of all the world; for his Majesty's right, it shall appear, said he, that his Majesty may and ought to dispose of these lands, in such manner as he hath done, and is about to do, in law, in conscience, and in honour.

In law; whether the case be to be ruled by our law, of England, which is in force; or by their own Brehon law, which is abolished and adjudged no law, but a lewd custom.

It is our rule in our law, that the King is Lord Paramount of all the land in the kingdom; and that all his subjects hold their possessions of him, mediate or immediate.

It is another rule of our law, that where the tenant's estate doth fail and determine, the lord of whom the land is holden may enter, and dispose thereof at his pleasure.

Then those lands in the county of Cavan, which was O'Relie's country, are all holden of the King; and because the captainship or chieffry of O'Relie is abolished by act of parliament, by stat. 2d of Elizabeth; and also because two of the chief lords elected by the country have been lately slain in rebellion (which is an attainder in law), these lands are holden immediately of his Majesty.

If then the King's Majesty be immediate chief lord of these lands, let us see what estates

tates the tenants or possessors have, by the rules of the common law of England.

Either they have an estate of inheritance, or a lesser estate; a lesser estate they do not claim; or if they did, they ought to shew the creation thereof, which they cannot do.

If they have an estate of inheritance, their lands ought to descend to a certain heir; but neither their chiefries, nor their tenancies, did ever descend to a certain heir; therefore they have no estate of inheritance.

Their chiefries were ever carried, in a course of tannistry, to the eldest and strongest of the sept, who held the same during life, if he were not ejected by a stronger.

This estate of the chieftain or tannist hath been lately adjudged no estate in law, but only a transitory and scambling possession.

Their inferior tenancies did run in another course, like the old gavelkind in Wales, where the bastards had their portion, as well as the legitimate; which portion they held not in perpetuity, but the chief of the sept did once in two or three years shuffle and change their possessions by new partitions and divisions; which made their estates so uncertain, as that, by opinion of all the judges in this kingdom, this pretended custom of gavelkind is adjudged and declared void in law.

And as these men had no certain estates of inheritance, so did they never till now claim any such estate, nor conceive that their lawful heirs should inherit the land which they possessed; which is manifest by two arguments:

1. They never esteemed lawful matrimony, to the end that they might have lawful heirs;
2. They never did build any houses, nor plant orchards, or gardens, nor take any care of their posterities. If these men had no estates in law, either in their mean chieffries, or in their inferior tenancies, it followeth, that if his Majesty, who is the undoubted lord paramount, do seize and dispose these lands, they can make no title against his Majesty or his patentees, and consequently cannot be admitted to traverse any office of those lands; for, without shewing a title, no man can be admitted to traverse an office.

Then have they no estates by the rules of the common law; for the Brehon law, if it were a law in force, and not an unreasonable custom, is abolished; yet even by that Irish custom, his Majesty, having the supreme chieffrie, may dispose the profits of all the lands at his pleasure, and consequently the land itself; for the land and the profit of the land, are all one; for he that was O'Relie, or chieftain of the country, had power to cut upon all the inhabitants, high, or low, as pleased him; which argues they held their lands of the chief

lord

lord in villainage, and therefore they are properly called natives; for *natus*, in our old register of writs, doth signify a *villein*; and the writ to recover a villein is entitled *De nativo habendo*; and in that action the plaintiff doth declare that he and his ancestors, time out of mind, were wont *tallier haut & bas* upon the villein, and his ancestors; and thence comes the phrase of *cutting*, used among the Irish at this day.

Thus then it appears, that as well by the Irish custom, as the law of England, his Majesty may, at his pleasure, seize these lands, and dispose thereof. The only scruple which remains consists in this point:—Whether the King may, in conscience, or honour, remove the ancient tenants, and bring in strangers among them.

Truly his Majesty may not only take this course lawfully but is bound in conscience so to do.

For being the undoubted rightful King of this realm; so as the people and land are committed by the Divine Majesty to his charge and government, his Majesty is bound in conscience to use all lawful and just courses to reduce his people from barbarism to civility: the neglect whereof, heretofore, hath been laid as an imputation upon the crown of England. Now civility cannot possibly be planted among them, but by this mixt plantation of civil men,

which likewise could not be without removal and transplantation of some of the natives, and settling of their possessions in a course of common law; for if themselves were suffered to possess the whole country, as their septs have done for many hundred of years past, they would never (to the end of the world) build houses, make townships, or villages, or manure, or improve the land as it ought to be; therefore it stands neither with christian policy nor conscience, to suffer so good and fruitful a country to lie waste like a wilderness, when his Majesty may lawfully dispose it to such persons as will make a civil plantation thereupon.

Again, his Majesty make take this course in conscience, because it tendeth to the good of the inhabitants many ways; for half their land doth now lie waste, by reason whereof that which is habited is not improved to half the value; but when the undertakers are planted among them (there being place and scope enough both for them, and for the natives,) and that all the land shall be fully stocked and manured, 500 acres will be of better value than 5000 are now. Besides, where before their estates were altogether uncertain and transitory, so as their heirs did never inherit, they shall now have certain estates of inheritance, the portion allotted unto them, which they

they, and their children after them, shall enjoy with security.

Again, his Majesty's conscience may be satisfied, in that his Majesty seeks not his own profit, but doth suffer loss by this plantation, as well in expence of his treasure as in the diminution of his revenue: for the entertainment of commissioners here and in England, and the extraordinary charge of the army for the guard of the Lord-Deputy and council, in several journies made into Ulster about this business only, hath drawn no small sum of money out of his Majesty's coffers, within these three years; and whereas Tyrone did the last year yield unto his Majesty 2000*l.* for four years to come, it will yield nothing; and afterwards the fee-farm of the undertakers will not amount to 600*l.* per annum.

Again, when a project was made for the division of that country about 20 years since, Sir John O'Relie being then chief lord and captain, they all agreed (before divers commissioners sent from the state to settle that country) that Sir John O'Relie should have two entire baronies in demesne, and 10*s.* out of every poll in the other five baronies; which is much more than his Majesty, who hath title to all the land in demesne, as well as to the chieffry, hath now given to undertakers, or reserved to himself.

Lastly,

Lastly, this transplantation of the natives is made by his Majesty rather like a father than like a lord or monarch. The Romans transplanted whole nations out of Germany into France; the Spaniards lately removed all the Moors out of Grenada into Barbary, without providing them any new seats there; when the English Pale was first planted, all the natives were clearly expelled, so as not one Irish family had so much as an acre of freehold in all the five counties of the Pale: and now, within these four years past, the Greames were removed from the borders of Scotland to this kingdom, and had not one foot of land allotted unto them here: but but these natives of Cavan having competent portions of land assigned unto them, many of them in the same barony where they dwelt before, and such as are removed are planted in the same county, so as his Majesty doth in this imitate the skilful husbandman, who doth remove his fruit trees, not with a purpose to extirpate and destroy them, but that they may bring better and sweeter fruit after the transplantation.

These and other arguments were used by the attorney to prove that his Majesty might justly dispose of those lands both in law, in conscience, and in honour; wherewith the natives seemed not unsatisfied in reason, though they

they remained in their passions discontented, being much grieved to leave their possessions to strangers, which they had so long after their manner enjoyed; howbeit my Lord-Deputy did so mix threats with entreaty, *præcibusque minas regaliter addit*, as they promised to give way to the undertakers, if the Sheriff by warrant of the Commissioners did put them in possession: which they have performed like obedient and loyal subjects. Howbeit we do yet doubt that some of them will appeal into England, and therefore I have presumed to trouble your Lordship with this rude discourse at large, that your Lordship may understand upon what grounds we have proceeded, especially in that county where your Lordship's precinct doth lie.

The eyes of all the natives in Ulster were turned upon this county: therefore when they saw the difficulty of the business overcome here, their minds were the better prepared to submit themselves to the course prescribed by his Majesty for the plantation; and the service was afterwards performed in the rest of the counties with less contradictions. The British undertakers are preparing their materials for the erection of their buildings the next spring: the servitors and natives are taking out their letters patent with as much expedition as is possible. The agents
for

for London have made better preparation for the erection of their new city at Colrane than expected; for we found there such store of timber and other materials brought in places, and such a number of workmen so busy, in several places, about their several tasks, as methought I saw Dido's colony erecting of Carthage, in Virgil.

Instant ardentes Tyrii: pars ducere muros,
Molirique arcem, & manibus subvolvere faxa:
Pars optare locum tecto, & concludere fulco.

.....

Fervet opus, &c.

Thus, craving pardon and presenting my humble service to your Lordship, I leave the same to the divine preservation, and continue your Lordship's in all humble duties,

JO. DAVIES.

Dublin, 8th Nov.
1610.

POSTSCRIPT.

This worthy servitor, Sir Oliver Lambert, is like to prove a good planter in the county of Cavan; whereof he hath made better proof than any man of our nation, having, at his own charge, voluntarily made a singular good plantation in the wild and most dangerous places in Leinster, more for the commonwealth than his own profit.

As to the antiquities of this County they principally consist of Danish forts in some of which have been

been found treasure, and some old and curious relicks; and as in several places are to be seen cairns or heaps of stones, it may not be unacceptable to give General Vallancey's opinion of these ancient monuments, and as I promised some of my friends this explanation, I very willingly perform the engagement, as supported by so able an antiquarian.

Cairn or a heap of stones, says the General, are large mounds of stones found in different parts of Ireland, and indeed in most countries of Europe. They were the sepulchres of the ancient Celtic heroes, especially of celebrated commanders of armies, and founders of colonies. On these mounds sacrifices were offered in honour of the Earth, or universal nature, on the eve of the first of November, from whence they were denominated *Tlachgo*, or temples of Vesta by the Irish, but Andate by the ancient Britons. Spoils and prisoners taken in war were also frequently sacrificed on them, in order to appease the manes of the departed worthies, after the manner of the ancient Mexicans. Here was exercised a species of divination denominated the *Ob*, in order to consult the spirit of ancient times, relative to future events. As repositories of the dead, they were frequently called Moghad-air, or Mogh-air-cair-nagh, that is temples, sanctuaries, or cairns of Mogh or Sodorn, the genius who presided over human affairs, and the manes of the dead; whence

the

the Romans called them temples of Mercury, and sanctuaries of Saturn, on which fires were occasionally lighted in honour of the Sun and Earth. According to the Irish antiquaries, these Cairns were the most ancient sepulchres of the old Irish, the principal person was interred, or his Urn placed in a cave or dome in the centre of the mound, and in the early ages was accompanied by his wife and nearest friends, who were inclosed alive with him in the tomb; for which reason we frequently find in opening these tumuli, human bones uncovered on the floor of the vault, whilst the urn containing the ashes of the hero lies interred under the tabernacle. This barbarous custom, however, was at length abolished, and the friends, relations, and descendants of the deceased chief were interred under the upright stones, encircling the base of the monument. A number of these Tumuli are still remaining in Ireland, particularly Cairn-Nergus at New Grange, in the county of East Meath; Cairn-Ban near Newry; Cairn-Dare near Kildare; Cairn-Cluin, and a fine one on the banks of the Liffey about 10 miles from Dublin.

*The ancient religious buildings of Cavan were,
The Friery of Cavan.*

Gelasius Rufus O'Rely, founded a Convent of Minorits there, in the year 1300. This place

place John Clyn calls Brefinia, it was given to the Minorits of the observance in the year 1502.

Priory of S. Mary of Drumlahan, or Domlech.

Of the order of Augustin Canons, it was founded, or at least rebuilt by S. Edan, commonly called Maidoc, Archbishop of Ferns, about the end of the fifth century. It was at last subjected to S. Mary, Abbey of Kenlis, in Meath.

The derivation of the name of this priory shouold be explained; Domleck, or Dromlahan, that is, the house of stone, is said in the Collectanea to have been a general name amongst the old christian Irish for their churches, when constructed of lime and stone, to distinguish them from those of timber and wattles, especially those with stone roofs ; for the ancient churches of Ireland, particularly those erected from the beginning of the eighth to the close of the eleventh century, are in a different stile of architecture from any at this day to be found either in Britain or the western parts of Europe ; and are evidently built in imitation of the original christian churches, in the southern countries, taken from the ancient heathen temples of the Greeks and Romans; and probably were introduced into this island by the Greek and Roman clergy who retired from their native countries on the arrival of the Goths and Vandals

Vandals into the Roman empire. These churches now remaining in Ireland, such as Cormac's chapel, the churches of Glandalogh, St. Dulach's church, and the monastery of Monainsheigh, are all remarkably small, seldom exceeding forty feet in length, and twenty in breadth, being covered with circular stone arches, under stone pediment roofs, of the true Gothic pitch, and the walls frequently ornamented with columns and pilasters, in rude imitation of the Corinthian and Doric orders. They are, however, in respect to taste, far superior to any erected during the beginning of the later ages, when the Gothic method of building was introduced from Britain.

Trinity Abbey, in the Island of Lough Oughter.

Canons of the order of the Primon Stratenses, founded in the year 1249, by Clarus Mac-Mailin, sometime Archdeacon of Elphin, and endowed by Charles O'Rely. Either this or St. Mary, Abbey of Ballimore, is the same with that which John Le Page calls Monasterium Ballimenualense, in the province of Armagh.

Kilmore.

Kilmore, or the great church, called in former ages Clunes or Cluain, that is, the sequestered

tered place situate near Lough-Ern. Here a church and bishoprick were founded in the sixth century, by Fedlimid, which was afterwards removed to an obscure village called Triburna, where it continued until the year 1454, when Andrew Mac Brady, Bishop of Triburna, erected a church on the site of that founded by St. Fedlimid, to whose memory it was dedicated, and demominated Kil-more. At present there are neither Cathedral, Chapter, nor Canons, belonging to this see; the small parish church of Kilmore, contiguous to the Episcopal house, serving for the purpose of a cathedral.

The Ancient division of Cavan, and of the Escheated Lands, with Observations thereon.

* It is stated, that when this county had the denomination of O'Relie's country, in several reigns previous to that of James the First, it was divided into small precincts of land, called Polls, (a distinction peculiar to the lands of Cavan,) every poll contained twenty-four acres, whereof there were 1620, which made up 40,500 English acres, of profitable land, or of arable and pasture. These polls after the division then used in Tyrone, and other escheated

* Harris's Hibernica.

cheated counties, contained thirty-two proportions ; *viz.* of the least twenty, of the middle seven, and of the greatest five, and each of these proportions was a parish, with glebes and tithes to the incumbent.

In the project for the division of the escheated lands, which was published by the King's proclamation, and generally adopted, four general points were observed, which holds good in all the escheated counties, *viz.*

1st. That the proportion of land distributed to undertakers was to be of three different quantities. The first and least, consisted of so many parcels of land, as made up 1000 English acres or thereabouts. The second or middle proportion, contained so many parcels as made up 1500 English acres or thereabouts. The third and greatest proportion, so many parcels as made up 2000 English acres or thereabouts.

2d. That all the escheated lands were to be divided into four parts, whereof two parts were to be divided into proportions, consisting of 1000 acres each, a third part into proportions of 1500 acres, and a fourth part into proportions of 2000 acres.

3d. That every proportion was to be a parish, and that a parish church should be erected thereon, and the incumbents be endowed with glebes of several quantities : *viz.* An incumbent

cumbent of a parish of 1000 acres, to have 60 acres; an incumbent of a parish of 1500 acres, to have 90 acres; and an incumbent of a parish of 2000 acres, to have 120 acres, and that the whole tithes and duties of every parish should be allotted to every incumbent, besides the glebes aforesaid.

4th. That the undertakers of these lands should be of several sorts: 1st. English and Scottish, who were to plant their proportions with English and Scottish tenants. 2d. Servitors then in Ireland who were allowed to take English or Irish tenants at their choice. 3d. Natives of the county, who were to be free-holders.

This project which was generally adopted, will more readily explain the division of this county as follows: viz.

For the Portion of the Church.

1st. The* termon lands were 140 polls, or 3,500 acres, which the King reserved for the Bishop.

2d. For the incumbents glebes were 100 polls, or 2,500 acres.

3d. The monastery land contained 20 polls, or 500 acres.

For

* These were church lands in the ancient division.

For the Undertakers.

There remained to be distributed to Undertakers 1,360 polls, or 34,000 acres, which being divided as before, made twenty-six proportions of all sorts ; viz. Of the least seventeen, of the middle five, and of the greatest four, which were to be divided amongst the undertakers in this manner.

To English and Scottish six proportions, viz. Three of the least, two of the middle, and one of the greatest.

To servitors six proportions, three of the least, two of the middle, and one of the greatest.

To natives fourteen ; viz. Eleven of the least, one of the middle, and two of the greatest.

There remained sixty polls or 1,500 acres, of which 30 polls, or 750 acres were to be allotted to three corporate towns or boroughs, which the King ordered should be endowed with reasonable liberties, and should send burgesses to parliament, and should hold their lands as aforesaid : viz. Ten polls or 250 acres to the town of Cavan, so much more to Bel-turbet, and so much more to a third town which was to be erected in or near midway between Kells and Cavan, the place or seat thereof to be chosen by the commissioners who

who were appointed for the settling of this plantation. Ten other polls, or 250 acres were to be laid to the castle of Cavan; six other polls to the castle of *Cloughoughter, and the other fourteen poles or 346 acres, to the maintenance of a free school, to be erected in Cavan.

The natives who were not freeholders, they were to be placed within the county, or removed by order of the commissioners.

Observations on this Project.

THE intended town between Cavan and Kells was not made a borough, but it doubtless means Virginia, and Captain Culme who held the possession of the grant by assignment from Capt. Ridgeway, the original patentee, (as in Pynnar's Survey of Ulster made in 1618,) had conditioned to build this town, for which he was allowed ten polls, or 250 acres, and which his descendants or assigns have since enjoyed; at that time, but eight houses were built, and were all of timber; but it does not appear that it was ever made a borough town.

d

A considerable

* This must be the castle in the Island of Loughoughter, and Barony of Lough tee, afterwards called Bishop Bedel's Island.

A considerable deviation from the project, also took place respecting tithes, glebes, and parish churches.

I cannot learn whether the number of polls allotted for the free school of Cavan, had any alteration.

To every proportion a sufficient quantity of bog and wood was allowed, as the country conveniently afforded; and to the several undertakers both English, Scottish, servitors, and natives, a fee farm grant was made of their estates to them and their heirs.

In the orders and conditions which were published by the King, and which were rigidly enforced under penalties, the English and Scottish undertakers were to plant their proportions with English and Scottish tenants only, were to yield to his Majesty for every proportion of a thousand acres 5l. 6s. 8d. English, and so ratably for greater proportions, which is after the rate of 6s. 8d. for every 60 English acres.

Every undertaker of 2000 acres, held his lands by **Knights Service in Capite*, and was bound to build a castle with a strong court, or bawne about it. An undertaker of 1,500 acres held his lands by †*Knights Service of the castle of Dublin*

* A species of tenure in the feudal system, founded on chivalry. See Encyclopedia Britannica, articles Chivalry, Feodal System, Knight.

† Ditto.

Dublin, and was bound to build a stone or brick house thereupon, with a strong court or bawne about it; and every undertaker of 1000 acres, held his lands^{*} by *common socage*, and there was no wardship on the two first descents of that land, he was bound to erect a strong court or bawne at least. They were all obliged to make their tenants build their houses in the vicinity of their mansion, for general defence, and an inhibition was made to restrain the falling or destruction of woods, out of which there was a sufficient quantity adjudged for the building of each plantation.

The undertakers were bound to have a sufficient number of arms ready at all times, and a competent number of able men, they were obliged to take the oath of supremacy, and to conform in religion according to the King's laws; they could not demise or alien to any but those who conformed in these particulars, nor to the mere Irish on any account. They had power to erect manors, to hold Courts Baron twice every year, to create tenures, to hold of themselves upon alienation of any part of the portions, so as it did not exceed the moiety thereof; they could not demise their lands at will only, but were bound to make certain estates for years, for life, in taile, or in fee simple; and there was a particular provisoe

d 2

against

* Ditto.

against **cuttings, fisheries, exactions, or uncertain rents*, according to the Irish custom.

In the articles concerning servitors, who had power to inhabit their portions, with mere Irish tenants, they were bound to yield to his Majesty yearly, £8. English, for every 1000 English acres, which is after the rate of 10s. for every sixty English acres, which they inhabited, with mere Irish tenants, but they were only to pay 5l. 6s. 8d. for every proportion of 1000 acres, which they inhabited with English or Scottish tenants, and they had all the same privileges, and were covenanted to the several conditions, as the British or Scottish undertakers were.

In the articles concerning the Irish natives, who were admitted freeholders, they were bound to pay 13s. 4d. for every sixty English acres, and so ratably in proportion; they held their tenures as the other undertakers respectively, according to their portions, with a proviso of the forfeiture of their estates if they entered into rebellion; they were conditioned to make certain estates to their under-tenants at certain rents, to relinquish the old customs of the country, and to use tillage and husbandry, after the manner of the English pale.

All

* See Sir John Davis's Historical Tracts, or the Introduction to the King's County Survey, by the Author.

All the undertakers were obliged to pay their tithes in kind, to the incumbents of their several parishes.

It may not be unacceptable to present a List of the original Patentees of Cavan, as reported by Pynnar, in his Survey of Ulster, made anno domini, 1618—19.

The Precinct of Clanchie allotted to Scottish Undertakers.

No. I. 3000 Acres.	He reports that Sir James Hamilton, Knt. then held these lands by the names of Keneth, 2000 acres, and Cashell, alias Castle Aubignie,
The Lord Aubignie was the first patentee. Denomination Keneth.	

1000 acres. A castle was built thereon of lime and stone, which was large and strong, with the King's arms, cut in freestone over the gate. The castle was five stories high, with four round towers for flankers; the body of the castle fifty feet long, twenty-eight broad; also a bawne of lime and stone, 80 feet square, with two flankers fifteen feet high. These lands had forty-one families, which consisted of eighty men at arms, of British birth and descent. The castle stood on a meeting of five beaten ways, which commanded all that part of the country; of these families, eight were freeholders, three lease-holders for lives, five ditto for years, and twenty-five cottagers.

II. 1000 Acres. Having a stone house
 John Hamilton, Esq. } 48 by 24 feet, and 2
 Kilclogban. } vaulted towers which
 flanked the house, with
 a bawne of stone 80 feet square and 13 feet
 high, with two round towers for flankers 12
 feet in diameter, and a village adjoined the
 bawne. These lands had 40 armed men in
 15 families, of which were 2 freeholders,
 6 lessees for years, and 7 cottagers, each cot-
 tager then had a house, garden, and com-
 mons for 4 cows; there was also another
 bawne near the former one, 100 feet square,
 and 12 feet high made of clay and stone.

III. 1000 Acres. Having a stone house
 Wm. Hamilton, Esq. } 36 feet by 20, with a
 Dromuck. } bawne of lime and stone
 80 feet square and 13
 high with two round towers for flankers, 2
 stories high and vaulted, with a village contigu-
 ous to the bawne. These lands had 30 armed
 men in 14 families, of which were 2 freehol-
 ders, 3 lessees for lives, 4 for years, and 6
 cottagers; all British.

IV. 1000 Acres. Having a vaulted castle
 William Bealie, Esq. } 30 feet by 22 with a
 Tonregie. } bawne of lime and stone
 90 feet square, with two
 flankers. These lands had 28 armed men in
 10 families

10 families, of which two were freeholders, 4 leaseholders for years, and 4 cottagers for years, all British Inhabitants.

*The Precinct of Castlerahan, allotted to Servitors
and Natives.*

V. 1000 Acres. } He reports that Sir
Sir William Taaffe Thomas Ash, Knight,
was the first patentee. held these lands by the
name of Mullogh and
Mullogh. that there was an old
castle newly repaired,
but that all the Inhabitants were Irish.

VI. 1000 Acres. } Sir Thos. Ash, Knight,
Sir Edmond Phittilace also held this proportion,
was the first on which was built
patentee, a good bawne, of lime
Carvyn. and stone, 70 feet square,
12 feet high, with two
flankers, but that all the land was inhabited
with Irish.

VII. 500 Acres. } Upon this proportion
Lieutenant Garth was a bawne of sods,
was the first patentee. and all the Inhabitants
Murmode. were Irish. Sir Thomas Ash, Knt. was in
possession.

VIII. 1000

VIII. 1000 Acres. }
 Capt. Ridgeway was
 the first patentee.
*Logh-Rammor, alias the
 manor of Chichester.*

 Captain Culme then
 held these lands, and a
 house 14 feet high, on
 which was a bawne of
 lime and stone 180 feet
 square. This bawne
 stood on a passage and was able to do good
 service, Captain Culme had conditioned to
 build a town called Virginia, for which he
 was allowed 250 acres: at that time, eight tim-
 ber houses were built with English tenants,
 and there was a minister who kept a good
 school.

IX. 400 Acres. }
 Sir John Elliot, Knt. }
Muckon. }

 On these lands was a
 bawne of lime and stome
 60 feet square, and a
 small house; all the In-
 habitants were Irish.

X. 900 Acres. }
 Shane M'Philip
 O'Relie.
*Denomination not men-
 tioned.* }

 On these lands was a
 bawne of sods and an
 Irish house.

INTRODUCTION.

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The Precinct of Tullaghgarvy allotted to Servitors.

XI. 1500 Acres. }
Captain Hugh Culme }
and Archibald }
Moore, Esq. }
*Tullavin. }

He reports that this
was a place of great
strength, having a
bawne and tower tho-
roughly finished, Mr.
Moore and four Eng-
lish families dwelt there, the rest were Irish.

XII. 750 Acres. }
Sir Thomas Ash, and }
John Ash. }
Drumshel. }

On these lands was a
bawne of clay and
stone, and another of
fods 120 feet square,
and all the Inhabitants
were Irish.

XIII. 1000 Acres. }
Mulmorie McPhilip }
O'Reyley. }
Ittery-Outra. }

On these lands was a
very strong bawne of
fods with four flankers
and a deep moate, and
a good Irish house with-
in it. The proprietor had made no estates.

XIV. 1000 Acres. }
Captain Reley. }
Liscannor. }

On these lands was a
bawn of sods and a
house in it. The pro-
prietor had made no
estates but from year to year, and all his ten-
ants

* William Moore, Esq. now enjoys this estate and resides
thereon, it has never been alienated from his family since the
original grant.

ants ploughed by yoking their horses from the tail.

XV. 3000 Acres.
Mulmorie Oge
O'Relie.
*Denomination not men-
tioned.*

On these lands was a bawne of sods and within it an old castle which was then built up, in which the proprietor dwelt. He made no estates and they all ploughed by the tail.

XVI. 2000 Acres.
Captain Richard and
his brother William
Tyrrell.
Itterery.

On these lands was built a strong bawne of lime and stone 80 feet square, and 12 feet high, with four flankers. The proprietors made no estates.

XVII. 3000 Acres.
Maurice Mac-Telligh.
Liscurron.

On these lands was a bawne of sods, and a good Irish house.

*The Precinct of Loghree, allotted to English Un-
dertakers.*

XVIII. 1500 Acres.
John Taylor, Esq.
Agbieduff.

He reports that on this proportion was a castle and bawne thoroughly finished, and the

the proprietor dwelling therein. On these lands were 54 armed men in 24 families, of which 7 were freeholders, 7 lessees for years, and 10 cottagers in fee, who held from 60 to 30 acres each. A village of 14 houses adjoined, in which was a water mill, the Inhabitants British.

XIX. 2000 Acres. } On this proportion
Thos. Waldron, Esq. | was a bawne of sods
Drombim and Dromel- | 200 feet square, with
lan. | four flankers and a cas-
tle of lime and stone
within it; a town of 31 houses adjoined,
having a wind mill, all the inhabitants were
English: this was a great thorough fare and
common passage into the country, and had
80 armed men in 53 families, of which 5
were freeholders, 17 lessees for years, and
31 cottagers, each having a house, 2 acres
of land, and commonage for 12 cows.

XX. 2000 Acres. } On this proportion
John Fish, Esq. | there was a strong
Dromany. | bawne and castle, also
2 villages, each having
10 houses of stone and lime, with 60 armed men
in 22 families, having 4 freeholders, 4 lessees
for 3 lives, 14 for years, and 14 cottagers,
each had a house, garden, and a common-
age right for 4 cows. Inhabitants British.

XXI. 1500 Acres. } These lands were then
 Sir Hugh Wirral, Knt. } tenanted by a Mr. Ad-
 Monaghan. } wick, and on which

 was a house of lime and
 stone, 2 stories high, which was purchased by
 Mr. Adwick. These lands had 8 families with
 8 cottagers able to make 26 armed men, and
 on which were 3 Freeholders, and five lessees.
 Inhabitants British.

XXII. 2000 Acres. } On these lands was
 Sir Stephen Butler, } a castle and bawne of
 Knight. } great strength, 2 corn
 Clonoe. } mills, and one fulling

 mill, and arms within
 the castle for 200 men; 41 British families
 besides under-tenants, and 139 armed men,
 of which 15 were freeholders, 11 lessees for
 3 lives, and 15 lessees for years; the Inhabi-
 tants all English.

XXIII. 384 Acres. } Sir Stephen Butler
 Sir Stephen Butler, } was to plant a town
 Knight. } at Belturbet, for which
 Belturbet. } was an allowance of

 384 acres*, he was
 also to build a church; here were houses built
 of cage work, and all inhabited by English
 tradesmen, who had each a house, garden, four
 acres of land, and commons for a certain
 number of cows and garrons.

XXIV. 2000

* This differs from his account, page xxxii.

XXIV. 2000 Acres.
Reynald Horne was
the first patentee.

Lisfreagh.

On these lands, then enjoyed by Sir George Manneringe was a bawne of lime and stone, 44 feet long and 12 high, with two flankers, also a brick house of same length, 20 feet high, and a village of seven houses, all the families English. On the lands were 24 families and 48 armed men, of which were 3 freeholders, and 21 lessees for years; all the Inhabitants were English.

XXV. 1500 Acres.
William Snow was
the first patentee.

Tonagh.

These lands were then enjoyed by Peter Ameas, Esq., on which was a good bawne of lime and stone, 75 feet square, and 12 feet high, with 2 flankers, and a stone house 60 feet long and 3 stories high, and a village of 7 houses; 11 families, 30 armed men, of which 4 were freeholders, and 7 lessees for years; all British.

*The Precinct of Clonemahown, allotted to Servitors
and Natives.*

XXVI. 2000 Acres.

Lord Lambert.

Carig.

He reports that on these lands was a large strong bawne and a stone house.

XXVII. 1000

XXVII. 1000 Acres.
Captain Lyons and
Joseph Jones were
the first patentees.

Tullacullen.

} Lord Lambert was
then in possession, and
on these lands was
built a bawne of lime
and stone 200 feet
square, 14 high, with
two flankers and a deep moate; 4 English fa-
milies without the bawne held land on leases
of 21 years.

XXVIII. 1000 Acres.
Lieutenants Atkinson
and Russell were the
first patentees.

*Denomination not
mentioned.*

} Archibald Moore,
Esq. was then in pos-
session of those lands,
on which was a strong
bawne of sods with
two flankers and an
Irish house.

XXIX. 500 Acres.
Captain Fleming.
*Denomination not
mentioned.*

} On these lands was
built a strong bawne
and a house, both of
lime and stone and very
strong.

NATIVES.

XXX. 2000 Acres.
Mulmory M'Hugh
O'Reley.
Commet.

On these lands was a strong house of lime and stone 40 feet by 20, 3 stories in height, and about it a bawne of sods. This proprietor made no estates.

XXXI. 300 Acres.
Philip M'Tirlagh.
Wateragh.

On these lands was an Irish house surrounded by a bawne of sods.

The Precinct of Tullaghconche.

XXXII. 2000 Acres.
Sir Alexander Hamilton was the first patentee.
Carotubber & Clonkine.

He reports that Jane Hamilton wife to Claude Hamilton deceased, was in possession of these lands on which was a strong castle and bawne of lime and stone, thoroughly finished, having 31 families with divers undertenants, able to muster 52 armed men, of which 6 were free-holders, and 25 lessees; Inhabitants British.

XXXIII. 1000

XXXIII. 1000 Acres.
Sir Claude Hamilton
was the first patentee.

Clomny.

The said Jane Hamilton was in possession of these lands which she held for her son, a Minor, and on these was a town of 22 houses, the cottagers had a house, garden, 4 acres of land, and a commonage for their cows.

XXXIV. 2000 Acres.
Alexander and John Aghmootie were the first patentees.

Drumbeda & Kilagh.

Sir James Carig, Knt. was in possession of this proportion, in which stood a bawne of lime and stone 75 feet square, and 16 feet high, with four round towers to flank the walls; and a strong and large castle, the length of the bawne 20 feet broad, and 5 stories high, and a platform for two pieces of canon. On these lands were 33 families and 100 armed men, 5 freeholders, 7 lessees and 21 cottagers, each having a house, and commonage for cows; the Inhabitants all British.

XXXV. 1000 Acres.
John Brown was the first patentee.

Carrowdownan.

Of this proportion Archibald Atcheson, Esq. was in possession, and had a bawne of stone and clay 100 feet square, with four flankers, and 9 feet high, standing

standing on a Mountain. Families 21, and 23 armed men, 2 freeholders, and 19 lessees for years; English and Scottish Inhabitants.

The Precinct of Tullagha.

XXXVI. 1500 Acres.
Captain Culme and
Walter Talbot.

Balleconnell.

He reports that upon this proportion there was a strong bawne 100 feet square and 12 high, with two flankers, and within the bawne a strong castle of lime and stone, 3 stories high, and that it stood in a very good and convenient place for the defence of the country.

XXXVII. 2000 Acres.
Sir Richard and Sir
George Grimes.

*Denomination not
mentioned.*

On this proportion was built a bawne of lime and stone 60 feet square, and 10 high, and a small house within it.

XXXVIII. 1000 Acres.
William Parsons, Esq.

Larga.

This proportion was between divers men, for it was granted for concealments, and they were not bound to build at all.

INTRODUCTION.

XXXIX. 1000 Acres. Magawran a native. <i>Denomination not mentioned.</i>	On this proportion was built a strong and good house of lime and stone, with a ditch around it.
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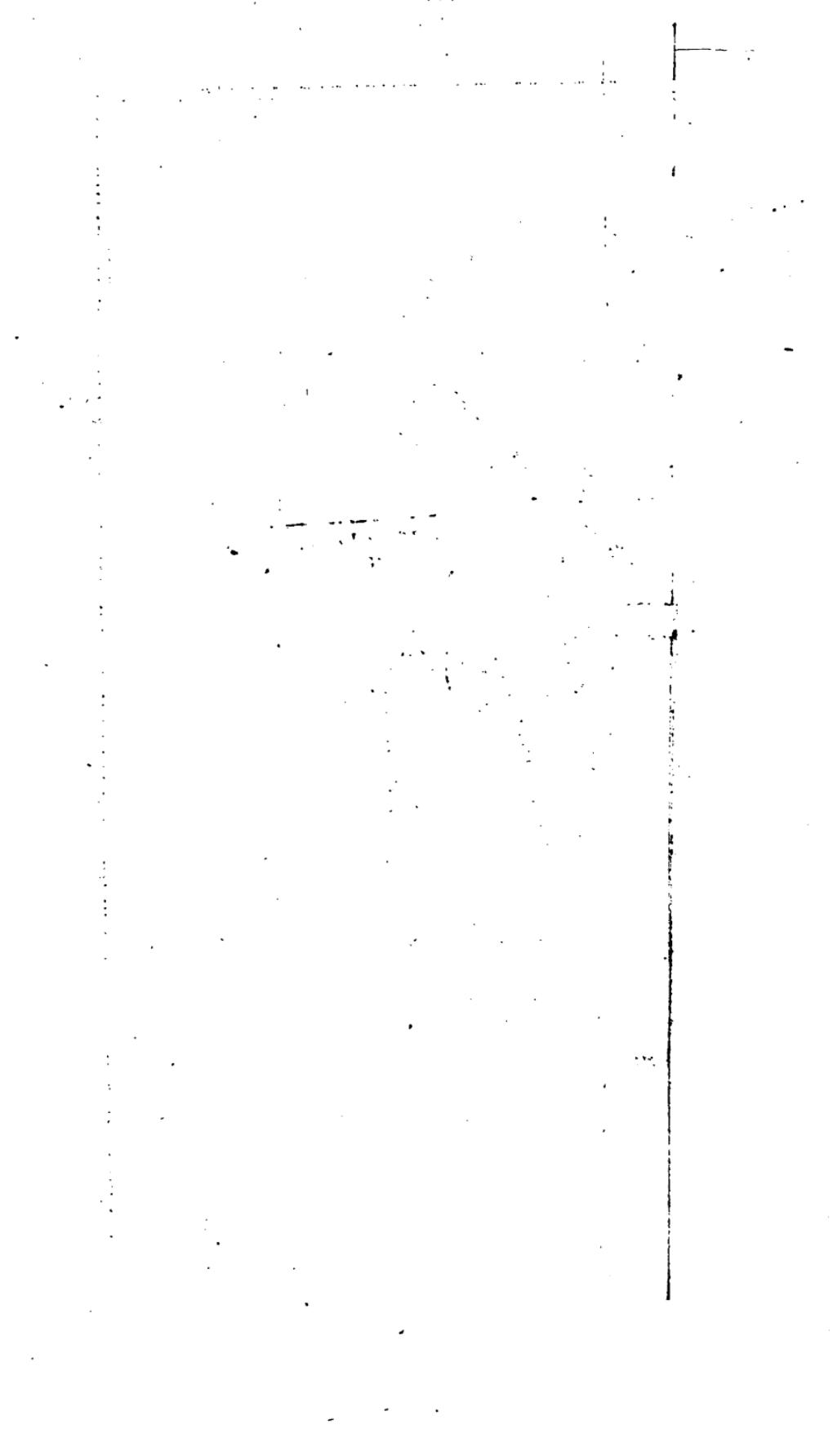
All these acres amount to 52,324 English measure, which were all the valuable lands in the county, at that time; neither bogs, woods, lakes, mountain, or unprofitable scopes were taken into account, the lands inhabited by British.

The total tot of British families at that period were as follow :

Freeholders,	- 68
Lessee for lives,	- 20
— for years,	- 168
Cottagers,	- 130
<hr/>	
Families,	386
Body's of armed men,	711

Of these Inhabitants 159 only had taken the oath of supremacy. The lands inhabited by British tenants were cultivated after the English husbandry.

A list of the present proprietors will be given in the 14th. chapter.



SKEETCH
of the
COUNTY
of
Carban



STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

COUNTY OF CAVAN.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND MODERN CIRCUMSTANCES.

SECTION I.

Situation and Extent.

CAVAN is an inland county of Ireland, in the province of Ulster, situate midway between the Atlantic ocean and the Irish sea, the extremities of the county being but fourteen miles distant from either of these waters, having Longford, Meath, and Westmeath on the south, Fermanagh on the north, Leitrim on the west, and Monaghan on the east.

It is in form rather circular, if we except the barony of Tullagha, which stretches in a narrow compass, considerably north and west on Fermanagh and Leitrim, and is in the line of division between those two counties. From the most northern part of Cavan in Tullagha barony, and Killinagh parish, to Mulloch church, on the borders of East Meath, near Monalty village by

STATISTICAL SURVEY

a right line, the distance would not exceed forty miles, and from King's-Court, at the extremity of the county, to the head of Lough Erne, at the point of junction with Longford and Leitrim, about twenty-eight miles. It contains 470 square miles, is 120 miles in circumference, and has 301,000 plantation acres.

From various calculations of the number of the inhabitants, the mean appears to be about 90,000, each parish will average above 10,000 acres and 3000 souls, and, allowing five to an house, leaves about 18,000 houses in the county. The average value of land will be found to be 15s. per acre, and has within these twenty years past been raised nearly double its former rate.

Superficial Appropriation.

	ACRES.
Arable lands,	7
Pasture and meadow,	267,500
Rivers and lakes,	3,500
Woods and plantations,	3,000
Roads, towns, and villages,	3,000
Mountain, bog, and waste,	24,000
Total acres,	301,000

The face of the country is very irregular, being entirely hill and dale, without any extent of level, in some places rocky, and, excepting the mountains, very little under actual waste. To the north and west the prospect

prospect is bleak, dreary, and much exposed; but in the other parts it is not only well sheltered and woody, but the scenery is highly picturesque and engaging; numerous lakes of great extent and beauty adorn the interior, and, generally speaking, the features of the country are strikingly disposed for ornamental improvements; yet those natural advantages are but partially embraced, though in no part of Ireland can be seen demesnes of more magnificence and beauty, than Cavan can boast of. If those charming seats are few, they are, indeed, unrivalled in natural situation; and in this age of improvement should encourage the too tardy Lords of her soil to seize those benefits, which nature has dealt out with a lavish hand, and change the face of those neglected wilds to profit, beauty, and civilization. The barriers of the county on the north and west, are highly marked by Slieb-Russell and the mountains of Ballynageeragh; Bruce Hill is a striking feature in the southern extremity, and the Leitrim mountains verge the western bounds.

The beautiful islands, formed by the chain of lakes, produce a variegated scenery, and the lofty woods, which overhang the river Erne, flowing to the celebrated lake of the same name, in the neighbouring county of Fermanagh, winds through fruitful banks, and appears highly favourable to a navigation, which, it is presumed, would be the most certain means to enrich this county in her soil, by the easy conveyance of lime-stone, of

which there is (but in partial spots) a great deficiency; and the sure and steady support, which always accrues from such a work to the manufactures of a country, which here deserve particular encouragement, from the spirit in which they are pursued, and the abundance of every material and natural advantage for carrying them to perfection, is no secondary argument for its recommendation or adoption.

SECT. 2. *Climate.*

In the great scale of the county it must be allowed but little shelter is found, and being so much exposed and high, and so contiguous to the great waters, which surround this island, the climate of Cavan varies little throughout; it is naturally cold, chilly, and boisterous, but yet not unwholesome; its elevated situation preserves it from those damps it might be supposed to possess in the exhalations of its numerous lakes, which are greatly dispelled by the blustery gales, which so considerably prevail. The variation of sowing and reaping scarcely exceeds ten days in any part of the county; this variation is not to be supposed to proceed from any great contiguity to the north, but from a more elevated situation. Inured to so rough a clime, the inhabitants are consequently hardy, the husbandman is remarkable for good health and longevity, and where

the

the weaver has a garden to relax from the fatigues of the loom, he seldom encounters those consumptive habits, which the people of the manufacturing towns who cannot enjoy such advantages, too often sink under. No where is the salubrity of the turf bog more exemplified than in Cavan, where in its environs, though the wretched peasants are almost naked, and their dwelling but a sodded hovel, yet they seem to disregard the severity of the season, and enjoy a hardiness and longevity, which the natives of more temperate countries are strangers to; the complaints, which those are subject to, are unknown to the former, where abounds a numerous population, that may be a corroborating proof of its sound, strong, and healthy climate.

SECT. 3. *Division.*

Cavan is divided into 7 baronies, viz. Tullaghah, Tullaghonoho, Clonmoghan, Lough tee, Castleraghan, Clonchee, and Tullaghgarvy.

These are subdivided into townlands, of which are made up 33 parishes, and contain 28 parish churches in the following Dioceses :

<i>Diocese.</i>	<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>
Kilmore.	29	24
Meath.	1	1
Ardagh.	3	3
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 28

STATISTICAL SURVEY

It also contains 9 towns and 24 villages, some of which have excellent markets, and will be particularly described in their proper places.

POLITICAL DIVISION*.

For the more easily collecting the county cess, it was determined in the year 1699, that a certain portion of townlands should be united under the particular denominations of a *Caragh*, and that each barony should contain 1000 caravaghs. These caravaghs are mere nominal proportions of land, of which each townland consists, more or less, in proportion to the number of acres in that district, and to the quality of them; and the original meaning of the word is supposed to have been as much arable land, as each townland contained, at the time, when this new assessment was laid on the county. Formerly there were 8 baronies in Cavan, but upper and lower Loughtee are now rated as one, and each barony being allotted to contain 1000 caravaghs, the county was of course divided into 8000, according to the following proportion.

* For the more ancient divisions, see Introduction.

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

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<i>Baronies.</i>	<i>Carvaghs.</i>
1. Tullagha contains	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
2. Tullaghenohe.	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
3. Clonmoghan.	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. Upper Loughtee.	177 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. Lower Loughtee.	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. Castleraghan.	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
7. Clonchee.	874
8. Tullaghgarvy.	1498
<hr/>	
Total carvaghs,	8000
<hr/>	

Each carvagh will be found to contain, by this division, somewhat more than 34½ acres of arable land, by which calculation, whenever 10s. per carvagh is raised upon the county, each acre of carvagh land is, one with another, charged with three pence half-penny.

This being the mode of collecting the cess of Cavan, I shall give a calculation of the sum each barony is to furnish, according to the rate per carvagh, laid on the county, from 5s. to 10s. per carvagh, both inclusive. But I must premise, that, in so loose a system of taxation, it appears wonderful, how it should be the modus for assessment, and have kept its ground for above a century; when this strange innovation was proposed, it was left to a few men

to

STATISTICAL SURVEY

to determine, and to value the county, who, we may rationally suppose, were biased by their own interests; but can any thing be more absurd, than that the old valuation still exists, although some thousand acres are now good improved, and ought to be assessed land, and the full burthen of the tax yet falls on the lands, which were at that time only made liable to the imposition.

BARONIAL

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

BARONIAL RETURN OF CESS.

Barony.	at 5s. per acre.				at 6s.				at 7s.				at 8s.				at 9s.				at 10s.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	£.	s.	d.	£.	£.	s.	d.	£.	£.	s.	d.	£.	£.	s.	£.	£.	s.	d.		
Tallagh.	137	16	6	165	7	0	193	1	6	220	13	0	248	4	6	275	16	0	305	16	0	340	15	0
Tullaghonoh.	175	7	6	210	9	0	245	10	6	270	12	0	305	13	6	340	15	0	366	10	0	412	6	5
Clonmaghan.	229	1	6	274	17	0	320	13	6	366	10	0	412	6	5	458	1	3	500	1	0	538	1	3
Upper Lough tee.	444	2	6	532	19	0	621	15	6	710	12	0	799	8	6	888	5	0	900	5	0	900	5	0
Lower Lough tee.	231	2	6	277	7	0	323	11	6	369	15	0	416	0	6	462	5	0	462	5	0	462	5	0
Castleraghan.	189	7	6	227	5	0	263	4	6	303	0	0	340	17	6	378	15	0	378	15	0	378	15	0
Clonchee.	218	10	0	262	4	0	306	18	0	349	12	0	393	6	0	437	0	0	437	0	0	437	0	0
Tullagharry.	374	10	0	449	8	0	524	6	0	599	4	0	674	4	0	749	0	0	749	0	0	749	0	0
County at large.	1999	13	0	2399	16	0	2799	19	0	3189	19	0	3589	19	0	3989	19	0	3989	19	0	3989	19	0

STATISTICAL SURVEY

The County at large raises per Carvagh.

	S. D.	L.
At	0 6	200
—	0 9	300
—	1 0	400
—	1 3	500
—	1 6	600
—	1 9	700
—	2 0	800

And in the same proportion, for every three-pence in the sum laid, on the carvagh, raising £100.

In the barony of Tullagha are four parishes, which contain two hundred and ten town-lands, and five hundred and fifty-one and an half carvaghs, viz.

Parishes.	Town-lands.	Carvaghs.
*1 Killinagh	has 45	and 123½
2 Kinawly	— 25	— 89½
3 Templeport	— 125	— 284
*4 Tomregan	— 15	— 54½
	<hr/> Town-lands 210	<hr/> Carvaghs 551½

In the barony of Tullaghonoho are two parishes, which contain one hundred and forty-five town-lands, and seven hundred and one and an half carvaghs, viz,

Parishes.	Town-lands.	Carvaghs.
1 Kildallen	— 52	203½
2 Killehandra	— 93	498
	<hr/> Town-lands 145	<hr/> Carvaghs 701½

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

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In the barony of Cloontioghan are 7 parishes, which contain 180 town-lands, and 916½ carvagh, viz.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Town-lands.</i>	<i>Carvagh.</i>
1 Ballintemple	- 40	162½
2 †Ballymachugh	- 22	93½
3 Dromloman	- 40	226
*4 Dynn	- 10	38
5 Kilbride	- 36	193½
*6 Kildromfartin, <i>alias</i> Crofferlogh.	{ 16	89
*7 Kilmore	- 16	114½
	<u>Town-lands. 180</u>	<u>Carvagh. 916½</u>

In the half baronies of Upper and Lower Loughtee, now rated as one barony, are 11 parishes, which contain 444 town-lands, and 2,701 carvagh, viz.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Town-lands.</i>	<i>Carvagh.</i>
1 Annageliff	- 38	283
*2 Belturbet, <i>alias</i> Annagh	32	254
3 Castleterragh	- 51	265
4 Drmolane, and part of		
*5 Tomregan	{ 101	670½
*6 Dynn	- 49	120
*7 Killinkere	- 8	42
*8 Kilmore	- 60	436
*9 Larragh	- 24	109
10 Lowey	- 32	167½
11 Urny	- 49	354
	<u>Town-lands. 444</u>	<u>Carvagh. 2701</u>

In

† In this parish the old denomination of the parish of Ballymackilleny now merges, though the latter has yet some distinct right.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

In the barony of Castleraghan are five parishes, which contain two hundred and nineteen town-lands, and seven hundred and fifty-seven and an half carvaghs, viz.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Town-lands.</i>	<i>Carvaghs.</i>
1 Castleraghan	- 35	115
*2 Crofferlogh, alias Kildromfartin. } 50		152 ¹
3 Lurgan	- 51	167
4 Monterconnaght	- 14	92
5 Mullogh	- 69	231
	—	—
Town-lands	219	Carvaghs 757¹
	—	—

In the barony of Clonchee are five parishes, which contain one hundred and fifty-eight town-lands, and eight hundred and seventy-four carvaghs, viz.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Town-lands.</i>	<i>Carvaghs.</i>
*1 Dromgoon	- 27	123
2 Enniskeen	- 25	196
3 Killan	- 57	269 ¹
4 Knockbride	- 47	253 ¹
5 Moybollogue	- 2	32
	—	—
Town-lands	158	Carvaghs 874
	—	—

In

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

13

In the barony of Tullaghgarvy are four parishes, which contain two hundred and sixty-six town-lands, and one thousand four hundred and ninety-eight carvaghhs, viz:

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Town-lands.</i>	<i>Carvaghhs.</i>
*1 Annagh, <i>alias</i> Belturbet	57	432
*2 Dromgoon	42	170½
3 Drung and Larrahgh	95	603½
4 Kildromseridan, <i>alias</i> { Killersherdinny.	72	292
	—	—
Town-lands	266	Carvaghhs 1498
	—	—
Parish of Annagh, <i>alias</i> Belturbet, containing		
Carvaghhs	—	254
And Drombane and part of Tomregan		670½
	—	—
Making together Carvaghhs		924½

are all the lower half barony of Lough tee.

The other parishes, containing 1776½ Carvaghhs, make up the upper half barony.

It appears by the Down Survey, that Cavan contained at that time 274,800 acres of arable land, consequently 26,200 acres were included in bog, waste, and mountain; the total being 301,000. The county being

Note.—Eighteen town-lands in the manor of Ashfield, and parish of Kildromseridan, make part of the seventy-two town-lands, in that parish. Parishes thus marked [*] branch into other baronies.

being divided into 8000 caravaghs, each caravagh on an average, contains a little more than 34½ acres. But as I already observed, the division was not altogether as to quantity, but also as to the quality of the land.

ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION.

Cavan contains 33 parishes, and 28 parish churches, their several denominations and descriptions are as follows :

1. Annaghgeliff, an inappropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Loughtee. Church in ruins.
2. Ballimackkilleny, an inappropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Ardagh, and barony of Clonmoghan, and hath a glebe.
3. Ballintemple, an inappropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Clonmoghan.
4. Ballymachugh, an inappropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Ardagh, and barony of Clonmoghan.
5. Belturbet, alias Annagh, a rectory, in the diocese of Kilmore, and baronies of Loughtee and Tullagarvy, and hath a glebe.
6. Castleraghan, a rectory, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Castleraghan, and hath a glebe and parsonage.
7. Castleterragh, a rectory, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Loughtee, the parish church is at Ballybayse.
8. Crofferlogh,

8. Crofferagh; alias Kildromfartin, an impropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Kilmore, and baronies of Castleraghan and Clonmoghan, and hath a glebe.

9. Denn, alias Dynn, an impropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Kilmore, and baronies of Loughtee and Cloamoghan, and hath a glebe.

10. Dromgoon; a rectory, in the diocese of Kilmore, and baronies of Tullaghgarvy and Clonchée, and hath a glebe. The parish church is at Coote-hill.

11. Dromlane, a vicarage, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Loughtee, and hath a glebe.

12. Dromloman, an impropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Ardagh, and barony of Clonmoghan.

13. Drusg, an impropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Tullaghgarvy, and hath a glebe and parsonage.

14. Enniskeen, a curacy, in the diocese of Meath, and barony of Clonchée, and hath a glebe and parsonage.

✓ 15. Kilbride, alias Kill, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Clonmoghan.

16. Killan, a rectory, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Clonchée, and hath a glebe. The parish church is at Shercock.

17. Kildallen, a rectory, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Tullaghnoho, and a hath a glebe and parsonage.

18. Killasherdinny, alias Kildromferidan, an impropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Tullaghgarvy, and hath a glebe.

19. Killinkere,

19. Killinkere, an inappropriate vicarage, in the diocese of Kilmore, and baronies of Lough tee and Castleraghan, and hath a glebe.

20. Killinagh, a vicarage in the diocese of Kilmore and baronies of Tullagha and Tullaghgarvey, and hath a glebe; the church is in ruins.

21. Killeshandra, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore and barony of Tullaghmore, and hath a glebe and parsonage.

22. Kilmore, a vicarage in the diocese of Kilmore and baronies of Lough tee and Clonmoghan, and hath a glebe and parsonage.

23. Knockbride, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore and barony of Clonchee, and hath a glebe.

24. Kinawly, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore and barony of Tullagha, the parish church is at Swanlingbar.

25. Larragh, an inappropriate vicarage in the diocese of Kilmore and baronies of Lough tee and Tullaghgarvey, the church is in ruins.

26. Lowey an inappropriate vicarage in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Lough tee.

27. Lurgan, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore and barony of Castleraghan, and hath a glebe.

28. Moybollogue, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore and barony of Clonchee, and hath a glebe, the parish church is at Bailyborough.

29. Mullogh, a chapelry in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Castleraghan.

32. Moncruslinghit, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Castleraghah, church is cosine.

33. Templeport, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore, had barony of Tullaghah, and has a glebe and par-fishage.

34. Tumregan, a rectory in the diocese of Kilmore, and baronies of Tullaghah and Leughtee, The parish church is at Ballyconnell.

35. Uray, a vicarage in the diocese of Kilmore, and barony of Leughtee, and hath a glebe and par-sonages.

Sect. 4. Soil and Surface.

Generally speaking of the soil of this county in its present state, it cannot be called fertile, as not producing a sufficiency for the supply of its inhabitants, although it is so considerably engaged in tillage; in its natural state, the soil is cold, spongy, inclined to rushes and a spiry grass, with a thick stratum of a stiff brown clay over heavy yellow argillaceous sub-strata; when this is improved by draining and graveling or liming, which manures are but very little attended to, the return is grateful; however, in general, the lands of this county are not so difficult to drain as in Monaghan, they being naturally of a more

dry, tilly, and friable soil, and the tillage not retarded in the same degree by rain; limestone is very little found, and carried at no less a distance for manure, than from ten to twelve miles, and is always burned with turf; but, where the peasantry are so poor, and the carriage so long, over hilly and very bad roads, improvement is not to be looked for in very rapid strides. Wheat is very little cultivated, nor can the grounds, in their present state, produce it at all, but other kinds of grain are sowed, of which oats occupy almost the entire. The vales shew how favourable to grass is their soil, of a deep brown clay, and are excellent for dairy husbandry, yet a trifling proportion is so occupied; the farms being very small, nothing more is required than supplies the peasant's family, and furnishes flax for his loom, of which almost every house in the county possesses one or more. The hills are entirely under oats, and approaching to mountain are occupied in the grazing of young store cattle.

Cavan is of an undulating and very irregular surface, with scarce a level spot to be seen, this inequality is the most striking feature, and being very elevated with no considerable tract of mountain in the interior, presents a sameness throughout, which in its uncultivated appearance is far from being engaging; where the surface is so unequal, of course the soil cannot but considerably vary. The management of their tillage is but loose and slovenly, and indeed, a fundamental

reform

reform in their systems must take place, before we see the ground yield what it is certainly equal to, if it were in judicious hands ; to exhaust a small plot with repeated crops of oats, and then suffer it to be overrun with noxious weeds, while in a state of recovery from the hardships of long oppression, would gradually make the best soil good for nothing, and how ill must it here agree, where the revigorating manures of lime and gravel are hardly attainable but at an excessive cost, and but little used ?

The peasantry should be shewn the advantage and renovating power of an intermediate green crop between two of corn, and taught to despise that tyrant custom, to which they are most bigotted slaves. The grand secret of husbandry is to procure stock ; tillage cannot otherwise be profitably pursued; their dung will ensure such vigorous crops as will quickly prepare them for market, the return of his money to the farmer is speedy, he can trade on it nearly three times for once, of the old modes of feeding, and he shall find his profits tenfold encreased by soiling in the house, as much as possibly he can.

In this system so rational and convincing, even in its theory, we will find by introducing intermediate vegetable crops, we entirely abolish the use or rather the abuse of fallow, which the most celebrated writers on agriculture and the best farmers now entirely condemn.

MOUNTAINS.

The mountains of Cavan are almost all in the northern extremity of the county, in the barony of Tullagh, which is nearly surrounded by them on Leitrim side; they are, in their present state, barren and bleak, and in some places very lofty; the description of their soil, and natural disposition, will, of course, be found in the Reports of that county, they being here but the line of separation. The mountain of Slieve Russell borders on Fermanagh, and is the highest land in Cavan, but yields scarcely any vegetation in its present state, and is mostly waste. The soil is gritty, and extremely rocky and boggy; immense and very deep swamps cover considerable tracts, yet marl is here found, which shews that parts are reclaimable, and that it possesses the manure within itself, so proper for its improvement. I do not mean, that this valuable manure is confined to Slieve Russell individually, for this favourable report holds good with the whole range of mountain within this district, some of which has been reclaimed by Mr. Grifson, of Swanlingbar, which may vie with the best lands in the county, and proves what yet may be effected, were but the Lords of the soil intent on their own individual interest, if they shewed no concern for the public weal. But how little can be expected from proprietors, who draw the entire rent of their estates, without

without ever beholding them, or expending one shilling in improvement, in any manner whatever; they must, of course, be ignorant of the real value of these grounds, which yield them in the aggregate a large revenue, though the tenures set individually for but a very small sum. As to the reclaiming of these mountains, they have not the remotest idea, which would return such a fair and honourable income; and it is astonishing to see with what peculiar care they preserve their game, on these extensive wilds, without the least regard to bettering the condition of their tenantry, whose state of uncivilization is, indeed, a pointed reflection on the supineness of their Lords. The soil of these mountains is in many parts of a red colour, and quickly pulverizes, when turned up or exposed to the air; every material for successfully draining the lands, are at hand; the peasants, who reside in these dreary wilds, are industrious, honest, and quiet, and, were but a little encouragement afforded them, to improve their lands, they would exert every nerve to effect it; they cannot be said to be very poor, as few are without the blessing of a cow, and their farms are so very cheaply rented, they are by no means distressed, nay, many of them are wealthy; but what does this tend to?—What they hold is sufficient for their consumption, and any redundancy from their industry, which sometimes is considerable, cannot be fairly returned in improving of their lands, for want of due encouragement. In civilization they have made no proficiency, for the very wealthiest,

wealthiest of these mountaineers have no better bed than straw, nor is a bedstead to be seen amongst them, but they indiscriminately herd together with the hogs and all the domestic animals of their hovel. In more minutely examining the condition of this abandoned peasantry, we have an opportunity of seeing far into human nature, and we behold the natives happy, even in this savage clime, and abundantly possessed of those qualifications, which endear mankind to each other. In acts of friendship to their neighbours, they are rarely deficient; their generous hospitality to strangers is proverbial; for educating their children they are particularly anxious, and a close attention to religion is universally prevalent; though their ideas may be tinctured strongly with superstition, it only argues, their minds have been totally neglected, and they shew a great wish and anxiety for instruction, even in religious concerns. What can be more desirable to have extended to them than proper tutors? nor could their landlords present them with more welcome guests.—How nearly does this faint picture apply to all the wilds of Ireland, and to her uncivilized sons?—Independent of the pleasure, which must result to the feelings of man, in bettering the condition of his fellow; independent of the satisfaction, which arises from the change of savage wilds to the fair face of improvements, is it not strange, that self-interest doth not induce us to seize those capabilities,

bilities, which we so amply possess, and would well repay our toil, and return incalculable profits?—Comparatively speaking, the preliminary steps to ensure this desirable improvement would be but very small indeed; were roads opened through the mountains, and small stone houses erected, with an encouraging tenure, every thing would follow of course. Let the peasant pay but a very small rent for so many years, for taking in, ditching, fencing, and liming so many acres of ground, and then have his farm for so many years longer, at an advance rent, and the matter would soon be effected. Not to dwell on the increase of income to the individual, which would result from this desirable scheme, we will find how immediately it would become the interest of the county at large, to concur in its advancement, and perhaps, on a further examination, it would appear by no means unworthy, the consideration and support of the legislature: for in this great mountainous tract, extending into the heart of Leitrim, and not even terminated at Lough Allen, than which there cannot be a more savage or uncivilized waste, and in this direction inhabited by a people as rude and barbarous as their wilds; the disaffected rebel had a secure retreat in the late rebellion, and, from the nature of his recesses, baffled the pursuit of the yeomanry, whose gallant exertions in this inaccessible region were as meritorious, as the service was difficult and dangerous. How effectually then would it meet such

such desperadoes, were those mountains to be opened with roads ? In the county of Wicklow it was the only expedient found to break the hands of robbers, which so long infested the neighbourhood of the metropolis ; here it would have the same happy influence, and at once add to the improvement of the county, and be the foundation to recruit an extensive waste, and add to the population and wealth of the nation. These unprofitable wastes, which are now so secure a retreat for the enemies to the law, would then soon become the habitations of industrious farmers ; and what sources of hidden wealth must in the cultivation of these lands be discovered, which now lie dormant ? A very fine kind of manure, being a decayed limestone, is found in these hills, similar to that described in the County of Monaghan Survey, found in the Sleive-Baught mountains, but much richer, and more calcareous, and therefore most highly with acids. In the banks of rivulets, it is in great plenty, and about a mile from Swanlingbar, up the stream, is an immense heap of it, which, when applied to the land, gives the most luxuriant crops. Marls, is here proved effective for tillage, and is in abundance at the bottom of the hills, but they always exhaust this manure with repeated croppings, before they let out their lands into grasses, or allow it any refreshment.

In Quilca mountain is a very rich iron mine ; I have sent specimens of the ore to the Dublin Society, which

which may be seen in their Muschins; this mine has been worked long since to a considerable proportion, and the ore was smelted about half a mile from Swanlingbar into pig iron, and carried from thence to that village, where mills were erected to forge it into bars, and were worked by water, as a very strong mountain stream flows there; when the timber of those mountains were exhausted in the furnaces, the work was given up, though coal is certainly contiguous; on the lands of Lurgan and Cooagh, which are very near at hand, are strong indications of that mineral; on the estate of Johnathan Morton Pleydell, Esq., if the roads were opened, which I have recommended, then the coal-mines in Leitrim could be served to, and the iron works refuted. On the summit of Quilca is a spring of good water, and this hill forms a remarkable feature in this district, and overhangs the valley with towering magnificence; for this mountain the rude natives have a strong veneration, and numerous fables, too absurd to relate, are on record amongst them of its supernatural powers, and the extraordinary race, which they affirm and well believe are resident within it. Nor is it less remarkable, that the summit of this hill was the place always chosen for crowning the McGwires, or investing their chief with supreme power over the adjoining county of Fermanagh. This potentate, whose envied title and sole appellation was McGwire, enjoyed an absolute

and

and unconstrained a dominion as any eastern prince, and tyrranized over his vassals with despotic fury, which they held to be the basest crime to oppose ; nay, so firmly were they rivetted in duty, we cannot from his tyranny suppose affection to their chief, that they would not shrink to sacrifice their lives and properties to his commands ; to this day the ignorant peasants of these hills believe, that the fates of that family are all dependant on Quilca, and that extraordinary appearances are seen here on the decease of any of the descendants of their ancient chiefs.

The extreme superstition, which is connected with the old traditions, and the credulous natives being so prone to the belief of those idle tales, is very easily accounted for, when we reflect, that the ancient bards of Ireland always concealed the moral of their poems, and spoke to the people in fables founded upon allegories. The poet extensively availed himself of his licence, in stepping beyond the bounds of probability in his flights and rhapsodies, as he found, that fables only were grateful to the ear of an unlettered rabble ; but, if we consider the mythology of his strains, we may discover, that a moral inference may be frequently deduced.

If this idea, which is not a novel one, was more minutely considered, and generally taken into account, in the perusal of the old histories and poetical compositions of the country, we should be less apt to attach

to them so much fiction, which appears in a literal sense; for their fables were either intended as a decoration to the piece, or to convey instruction, which effects strains of mere morality would never have produced, because they were not suited to the taste of the people.

I do not mean to assert, but that there are many instances to be found in such writings, which were the sole work of fiction, and intended to impose on the minds of an ignorant people; many of these were the subtlety of priestcraft, as an illustration to their superstitious doctrines, which they delivered in verse, as also in the same manner were the laws promulgated, and many were the effusions of a fertile invention, or an absurd taste, that indulged in marvellous recitals, to divert and amuse the credulous ear, or perhaps to serve as a relief to the uninteresting and tedious chronology they describe.

The Roman and the Grecian poets indulged considerably in fiction, but the Irish bards were philosophers as well as poets, and like the Eastern Bramins, their verses were regarded as sacred inspirations, and we read that, under their alluring and pleasing discipline, the laws were observed, and the minds of the people were craftily reformed to learning and civilization.

It cannot be denied but that in this design the bards had well succeeded for ages antecedent to the third

century

century, and to a nation thus civilized the divin precepts of christianity about that era soon became manifest truths, and were embraced even to the total extirpation of the Druids or bards their pastors, whose absolute dominion gave way to the venerable missionaries of the gospel; and it is well authenticated, that for ages preceding the Danish invasion, the nation was renowned for learning and arts, which envied distinction, existing valuable relics, and the most respectable ancient writers have concurred to testify it well deserved.

But the unhappy and tedious warfare, which took place with their cruel invaders, afforded no opportunity for the further cultivation of peaceful study, and at once extirpated all manner of learning: hence followed a rapid and miserable relapse into ignorance, and by the baneful effects of war, the bright and eminent erudition of their predecessors was obliterated in the barbarity of the subsequent dark and uncivilized ages, whose annals will ever be an indelible stain on the character of the nation.

To resume the natural history of these mountains, we find, that coal or iron ore are not the only minerals that abound; for in the mountain of Ortnacul-lagh near Ballyconnell, both lead and silver ore are carried down the stream, which flows from thence, pure sulphur is frequently found, fuller's earth, and pipe clay are in abundance, the latter is found very soft

soft, and when baked in the sun acquires a proper consistency; approaching into the Fermanagh mountains, beautiful white and red transparent spars are within a spade's depth of the surface, and here are two slate quarries, which only require a spirited undertaker to return an ample profit; potter's clay is in every townland, and some of it of the very best and purest kind; patches of brick clay abound, of the finest and most durable quality, and every step we take, evinces the value of the mineral productions of these mountains. Nor in its mineral waters, is this country deficient; at Swanlingbar is a celebrated well, which is resorted to in the summer by the best company; the report of the analysis is sulphur, earth, sea-salt, and fossil alkali, and its medicinal effects both alternative, and diaphoretic; the waters are used from April to September, and are esteemed particularly revigorating for a debilitated constitution. It may not here be improper to account for the etymology of this village, which is so incongruous with the ancient names of this country, and hold its appellation from the following silly anecdote.

When the iron mine was discovered at Quilca, it was engaged in by a company, whose names were Swift, Saunders, Darling, and Barry, who chose this spot, from its favourable site, for a mill, which they had to erect on the stream to forge their bar iron, and from their names this ridiculous word was tortured,

tured, from whence the village was called; it is on the estate of Mr. Wynne. Another mineral water is contiguous to the town, but is entirely sulphureous; on the mountains near Ballyconnell, is also an indication of coal, on the estate of the Miss Montgomerys.

The climate of these mountains is excessively severe, for four months exposed to harsh winds and continual snow and sleet, which lies long on the surface; the soil is argillaceous, with deep strata of gritty stone, approaching near to granite; the surface very mossy, but they have ample supplies of a blue gravel, which, with firing, certainly destroys it, and also, when dug into the soil, renders it very tilly and dry. Limestone gravel of a loamy and very calcareous quality is frequently met in banks, and the solid block of limestone is abundantly found, which they burn with turf, and apply rather sparingly to their lands, scarcely exceeding 30 barrels to the acre, and this small supply yields a very productive crop. Oats of the hardest kind, and quite black, which is sowed after one or two crops of potatoes, is their principal grain. Barley is so rarely cultivated, as scarcely deserving to be spoken of, amongst them. Their valleys or low-lands are grassy, but very coarse, and serve to sustain their cattle in the winter months, or rather three parts of four in the year, when the mountains are inaccessible; the breed is consequently poor and stunted.

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The plough is never used, the ground is so rocky; their spade is remarkably long in the blade, which they call the loy, and is fashioned with a considerable curve to prevent the adhesion of the soil; and as they trench in all their grain, their labour is immense yet not very expensive, for they are so expert as to require but twelve men to dig an acre in a day's work; the ground lies admirably for draining, but being so much under church, and school* dominion bars its improvement very materially; nor is it to the profitable reclamation of husbandry only that their mountains are so very favourable, but, as I have said, they evidently possess immense riches in their mineral productions, and perhaps no where are more natural beauties to be seen, to invite the hand of the ornamental improver; the lofty hills present the boldest views, and create the sublimest sensations, and their naked summits form a perfect contrast with the verdure of the country below, which, though coarse, yet from this distance appears to possess the richest luxuriance. Ascending the mountain from Derryolimp, its singular shape is particularly striking, and nods in uncouth pre-eminence over the lesser hills, which seem to shrink from the crash of its impending summit, from whence is presented the grandest prospect over several counties; the surrounding scenery is only destitute of timber

* Under these establishments, encouraging leases cannot be made.

timber to complete the landscape: the woods have been long since cut down to supply the furnaces at Swanlingbar. It is evident from the fine growth they had, that the soil is particularly favourable to plantation, and from the very fissures of the rocks spring shrubs, which flourish in these wilds, and defy the inclemency of the winter, which is here so severe. Manganese and ochres are also found in these mountains, the latter of the very best quality, both red and yellow; of the former, the coarse kind only, which is used in the potteries.

woods.

The woods of Cavan were formerly very considerable, and the timber of uncommon size, which argues that the soil is favourable to plantation. Demesne grounds now can only boast of this valuable ornament, which will be particularly noticed in their places. Immense trees are found in the bogs, much greater than I have seen elsewhere, but not so found as those raised in the Bog of Allen. That these bogs are of a less astringent quality, I cannot conceive; for, if genuine original bog is any where, it must be in Cavan, where they are so extremely deep. I rather apprehend, from the size of the timber, that it decayed before it fell.

A spirit of improvement in this delightful pursuit is evidently getting forward, as many demesnes are now well

well planted; and give a woody appearance to the county; but, excepting the vicinity of gentlemen's seats, very little shelter is to be found. In hedging and ditching, they are remarkably deficient; take all the town-lands of Cavan, and I question, if, on an average, three fields will appear well inclosed in each town-land, or half of this number shew quick or thorn hedges.

BOG AND MOOR.

For culinary purposes, or for manufactures, Cavan possesses a full sufficiency of bog, and gives fuel of the very best quality; for draining, it generally lies favourable, and yields the strong red ashes, which are so particularly good and casting a manure. In lime-stone gravel the county is very deficient, which is so valuable in the reclaiming of bogs, as also it is in limestone quarry: but here the bogs, when drained and burnt, only yield a verdure of a very kind and fine nature, superior to any I have before seen, which had not been limed. These bogs are variously deep, but more generally extremely so; the stratum next the surface is very dense and close, and makes the finest fuel; that next to it is more commonly less tough, and apt to crumble, after which, to the bottom, it is of the most excellent quality. When the surface is burnt, it yields shamrock and clover naturally, and the sweetest herbage.

The moors are but in small proportion, and that, which is called moor here, would be esteemed absolute bog in other parts. They only differ from bog from the partial argillaceous strata, which run so near the surface, and in them marle more generally abounds, which is highly calcareous, and very easily raised.

SECT. 5. *Minerals, and mineral waters.*

Are iron, lead, silver ore, coal, ochres, marle, fuller's earth, potter's clay, brick clay, manganese, spar, sulphur, and a species of jasper stone; limestone, but in small quantities.

Besides the mineral waters at Swanlingbar, already described in this county, is that at Derrylester, which has the same medicinal virtues, being alterative and diaphoretic.

The waters at Derrindaff have sulphur and purging salt; their effects are useful in lowness of spirits, and nervous diseases, and they have a diuretic tendency.

The well at Owen Breun has the like medicinal properties, and the analysis shews sulphur and fossil alkali.

At Carrickmore, the waters are impregnated with fixed air, purging air, and fossil alkali, and are both purgative and diuretic. They are extremely cold.

SECT. 6. *Water.*

The Erne is the principal river of Cavan, and is supplied, in its course to Lough-Erne, with numerous lakes and small streams, which very plentifully water the country. A very fine line of navigation runs with this river, and visits the best cultivated and richest parts of the county. A very small expense would render it complete from Coote-hill to Belturbet, and, from thence to Ballyshannon; it is at present navigable.

If the line of canal were adopted, which I took the liberty to recommend in the Reports of Monaghan county, then would this county also share the extensive benefits to be derived from it, were the line, I now propose, to be determined on here; and on candidly examining the subject, there is no difficulty in pronouncing, that no means whatever are so likely to afford true benefit here, as a navigation would ensure. In water they would, doubtless, have a steady supply, so numerous are their resources in this particular, and it is presumed, that their manufacture would be highly benefited.

The lakes are capable of ensuring a reservoir, for a considerable part of the year, as many of them are not dependent on springs within themselves for their waters, but are filled with small streams, which flow into them.

The lakes of Cavan are numerous, and some of them very extensive sheets of water, which cover several hundred acres, as will be particularly shewn; others present great extent in winter; many of them are entirely dry in summer, and are not without good falls, and could be easily drained; they abound with the finest pike, and their waters are very deep and uncommonly clear; several of them are discharged into streams, which form in the vales a powerful current, and with the diversity of the channel create many other lesser lakes. After watering a great extent of country, they flow into Lough Erne, and clearly shew the fine line of navigation, which is so attainable, should it be deemed politic to adopt it.

C H A P. II.

STATE OF PROPERTY.

Estates and Tenures.

THE value of large estates of this county rates from 10,000*l.* to 1000*l.* per annum, and they reduce even to 50*l.* per annum; the smaller are considerably enjoyed, as grants even from the Cromwellian expedition.

The most considerable estates are resided on by the proprietors, and the lesser ones are almost individually so; a life interest is most usually the tenure of farmers, and no county is more obstinately contested in elections for members to serve in parliament. Three lives is the general original term of the leases, or twenty-one years and a life, yet some valuable farms are enjoyed in perpetuity, and some of the holders have a considerably superior interest to the proprietor, who has the fee.

The farms are small throughout, and come under the same description as those of Mottaghan, in the manner of occupation, being principally held by manufacturers, who occasionally relax from the loom to the business of the

the farm; the larger farms may average thirty acres, the smaller seven; the latter bear above ten to one to the former, in the proportion of the county, so that nine acres may be the average of the whole.

The restriction of non-alienation is not so rigorously insisted on, and indeed, it is a very difficult, if not an unattainable matter, to devise the means for carrying this desirable clause into effect. It must be allowed, that the more the benefits resulting from the observance of this imposition are considered, the more desirous we should be, to have it of general effect through the nation, as the best guardian to improvement, and the furtherance of agriculture; but such unconquerable difficulties are presented, as seem a total bar to its maintenance,

To make a lease to the farmer for his own life will not bar the transfer of property; for, should he become a bankrupt, then, the interest in his tenure becomes the property of his creditors, which no form of lease can deprive them of, and is an alienation on the death of the lessee, and the lands becoming the property of the children, it constitutes a direct alienation; and what man will exhaust his wealth from his family, or the uncertainty of his own life, so that the improvement is barred by this clause, and agriculture is, doubtless, shackled; however, we see such miserable examples, in every part of Ireland, of the interference of middle-men, as, doubtless, cause a serious evil, and is

a real

a real oppression to the poor, as unreasonably loading the produce of the lands with a heavy charge ; for each person concerned must have his profit, and ultimately the proprietor is a material sufferer, when his land is returned on his hands, so exhausted by incessant croppings, that it is incapable of yielding more, until unprofitable rest and immense expence prepare it again for perhaps the like slovenly and infamous management.

The remedy for this evil is worthy the consideration of the legislature, and the miserable appearance of the *coshier lands of Ireland loudly calls for their interference, which the proprietor has at present no remedy against, but the tedious stages of ejectment, when he cannot otherwise rescue his grounds from the hands of men with neither capital nor judgment.†

Speculation without capital, which our countrymen are too prone to, will inevitably involve some of the parties engaged in it. If the needy peasant, who thus embarks, cannot fail in the pursuit, it is because he has nothing to lose ; but the weight of his folly and

knavery

* A neglected stubble overrun with weeds.

† I beg leave to quote one legal opinion on this subject.

² Durford & East. *Per Abberf^t Judge.* The general principle is clear, that the landlord having the Jus disponendi may annex whatever conditions he pleases to his grant, provided they be not illegal or unreasonable. It is reasonable, that a landlord should exercise his judgment with respect to the person, to whom he trusts the management of his estate ; a covenant therefore not to assign is legal.
Roe v. Galliers. Page 137.

knavery presses hard on the landlord, who has no redress by law, but by ejectment: in the mean time, the middle man, who oppresses both the proprietor and the miserable occupier, is enriched, and is encouraged to persevere in a system more injurious to the real interests of the nation, as barring all improvement, than treble the weight of taxes, which are imposed by the legislature.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

B U I L D I N G S.

THERE is nothing of magnificence in the buildings in this county; at Bellamont forest this style is attempted, but quite too little ground covered to admit it. At Farnham, the irregularity, and want of method in the stile, forbids claim to elegance, but these two princely demesnes are well deserving the most magnificent mansions, as will be shewn, when we come to speak of the beauties they so eminently possess. The more substantial farmers have good family houses, which have little in the exterior to recommend them, but the dwellings of the peasantry are miserable indeed; the general rent of these huts with liberty of turbary, and a rood of ground, is from forty to fifty shillings per annum; this would not average fifteen shillings from the head landlord, but, by the interference of middle-men, is raised to the present extravagant pitch. This middle-man is generally a manufacturer of linen, who employs journeymen; he rents, perhaps, ten or fifteen acres of land, at from fifteen to thirty shillings per acre, according to the quality of the land, and the

the number of cottages, which are erected on it: this he divides into so many parts, as he has capital to employ journeymen; he sets a rood of ground for fifty shillings, which is ten pounds per acre, from which let us, (at the utmost) deduct five pounds for the building of the cabin, which he is quickly repayed, we find it is he, who has the great benefit of the land, that but a small matter is returned to the original proprietor, and the occupier, who ought to enjoy some profit, as it is he who makes and pays the rent by excessive labour, is left in penury and distress, by this extravagant and burthensome process.

This wretched member of society works at the loom for his rapacious employer, and his tenure is called a dry cot-take; if he has the graft for a cow, he pays for it, from one to two guineas additional, which is termed a wet cot-take: these cot-takes are not leased to the weaver, which is the pretence the employer pleads to his landlord, (who may be an enemy to alienation) that, as he does not give any stated term of the tenement, of course he has no fixed interest in it, but yet the mischievous consequence is the same, and the occupying tenant is grievously oppressed, and kept in continual poverty. This subject will be again resumed in the eleventh chapter, where it particularly applies.

C H A P. IV.

MODE OF OCCUPATION.

SECTION I.

Size of Farms, and characters of Farmers.

THE average of farms here is about nine acres, taking large and small together, but in the vicinity of towns where is a market, they seldom exceed five. The mountainous parts only, where the population is so thin, are largely allotted to individuals, who occupy them in grazing young cattle, in the summer months, mostly for hire; the low grounds being in so small allotments, that the occupiers cannot raise grain for market in abundance, but merely to supply their own families. The principal commodity for market, which is raised from the ground, is flax; potatoes, of course, are plenty, as their clay grounds are so favourable to them. In pet-parks, in the demesnes of the gentry, some sheep are fattened; these occasionally come to market, but, in general, excepting the environs of Cavan town, there are not good sheep-walks to any extent in the county. The middle district, in the barony of Loughtee,

Loughtee, is certainly superior to any other part of the county for feeding ground, and here, particularly at Farnham, where the breed of cattle is so fine, they feed oxen to as great a size, as any part of Ireland can produce; but, in general, the markets of this county are but poorly supplied with meat. As to the peasantry, whether we consider them as manufacturers, or as farmers, they are commendable as to industry, as indubitably they are hard working people; but yet their farms shew but a slovenly care and ill management, and argue the impossibility of devoting a due attention to the two pursuits, which, in their several stages, are so opposite. If it could be done at all, I should think in this county it ought to succeed, where the farmer holds so small a portion of land, and has more than his entire rent coming in from the offsets of his little farm, so that neither want of capital, nor extent of ground, can be taken as an excuse for ill management, and the general characteristic of the people is thrift and sobriety; yet we scarcely see a field inclosed with a ditch, which will stand for a season, and no attempts at all to quick it, or plant a tree. These improvements are peculiar to the seats of men of fortune, and which the lower class have little notion of. As I have shewn the character of the people is praiseworthy as to industry and sobriety, so candour must oblige me to expose their strange infatuation to customs however ridiculous, which yet prevails, nor will

demonstration

demonstration itself persuade them to abandon them, or adopt modes of improvement, which have not been sanctioned by the example of their predecessors.

SECT. 2. *Rent.*

Since the English settlers came to this country, rent has been paid in specie; before that time, it was paid in kind, and, although in the principal parts of Ireland bank notes were received in payment, yet here, until the latter year, they have been generally and steadily resisted, and now but partially so: specie enough was hitherto found to discharge their rents. It is worth enquiring the reason for this sudden change, after so long and so successful a resistance, which I shall endeavour to account for. The linen manufacture, which is the life and soul of this county, and on which its prosperity entirely depends, has had all its materials hitherto paid for in specie, and as the weaver or the farmer would take no other payment but cash, they were, of course, obliged to pay their rent in specie; and where extensive markets are resorted to every day, and perhaps, from eight to ten thousand pounds regularly expended weekly, it was not in the power of the speculators in discount to take the specie out of the county; for the manufacturers paid the highest discount for cash, to take to market to purchase their webs.

webs. I must here digress a moment in observing, that this has been a considerable tax on the trade, in as much, as the rate of discount per cent. exceeded the currency of bank notes, and may, in some degree, account for the extravagant prices, which linens have borne, since the national bank was prohibited from paying specie by order of council. Other reasons, and material ones, have also occurred, to occasion the extraordinary rise, which has considerably injured the trade.

I must only now remark, that, as the tax of discount for specie is in part taken off, and the merchants pay for webs with both cash and bank notes, it is to be expected, that since the burthen is gradually removing, the trade will again recover, and be brought more on the general level with other articles of commerce, which the community at large will, doubtless, feel the good effects of.

To resume this account for the disappearance of specie, I must remind my readers of the extraordinary emigration of linen weavers from this province, the last spring, to America, several thousands having actually left the country, which the too lenient and mistaken government permitted, in consideration of the calamity of the scarceness of provisions. It is a well authenticated fact, that it was not the poorest class who left the country; for how could a poor man command six guineas for each of his family, which was the bare passage money only? And, although in former years their

their venture was linen cloth, yet it is well known they took out all they were worth, converted into *specie*; the interest of their farms, their stock on the farm, and in trade, was all sold for cash: how many thousand pounds must the country have been stripped of, for their passage money only, which was given in prompt payment? Granting, that the amount of this sum was left in the country by the captain of the vessel, for the high discount which then prevailed, yet the most considerable sums must have accompanied the adventurers; for the man, who could spare from his stock six guineas per head, for the passage of his family, must have had no small purse, to commence a living in a strange country. How strongly pictured here is the character of the Irish peasant—how directly marked with speculation and adventure?

After encountering two years of famine, such as he before never witnessed, and burthened with an unprecedented weight of taxes, at the eve of the most abundant harvest, that ever the country was blessed with, he disposes of his all, for an adventure to a country he knows not of, and will soon forsake for his native home, to which he returns a burthen and a pauper.

Such is the true picture of emigration, as already the adventurers have represented to their relatives, whom they have forsaken, which will, doubtless, quell that rage for emigration, better than the most strict laws, which to the national disgrace, and incalculable loss, were here incautiously permitted to slumber.

One half of the yearly rents of Cavan are left with the tenants to trade on, as they pay only the last gale, as the second becomes due. I have in other Reports very fully endeavoured to shew the impropriety of this custom, which the landlords call an indulgence, but which, doubtless, can be made the most arbitrary use of, as at all times the tenant must obey the orders of the landlord, or be driven for the pending gale of rent, which too few can command, without disposing of their stock to their disadvantage, in a bad season, or leaving their lands unoccupied.

We have numberless instances of the abuse of this custom, the recital of which must be as well to the national as the individual discredit, for in too many parts does it shamefully prevail; I should consider him the best landlord, who would oblige and insist on having his rent paid up punctually: his tenant is much more independant than the man, who has the indulgence of the hanging gale.

The women contribute very considerably to the rent by spinning, they are extremely industrious; as the farms are small, there is no great demand for labour, the family on the land being generally fully adequate to all the work; nor for the same reason have they cottiers, as in Leinster and Munster, as those called cottiers here give their labour to their employer at the loom. For the cot-take there is no leave, and rent is paid in labour, in the

like

like manner, as in the counties where the cottiers work abroad: they are both mutually bound to their employers, only as long as they like their service; duties, which doubtless ought to be considered as rent, are only partially adhered to in this country, and are another source, from which much evil may flow, and at least only serve to hold up the vestiges of the feudal system, which in so many instances are in direct hostility to the spirit of our constitution, and a heavy shackles on the liberty of the subject. The happy spirit of improvement is firmly taking root, and the true interest and honour of the nation will naturally prevail, before which these idols must fall.

SECT. 3. *Tithes*

The matter of complaint, in this instance, is not against the principle of the tax, so much as the mode of collecting it; no system in existence labours under greater abuses, nor could any be more easily reformed; the timidity displayed by the friends of the Church, in remedying the enormous abuses which are countenanced, almost induce a supposition, that the whole fabric will meet a crash; for that, which has so much evil interwoven in it, will not stand; I beg I may be understood, that there cannot be any person, who

wishes better to the interests of the church than I do, and I by no means would argue for the impropriety of the tax; I would wish to support the rights of the church; I therefore would willingly expose the defects, which may be remedied, and far from presuming to point out an infallible cure for the evil, I would heartily wish that the clergy themselves would rectify it, which it is doubtless in their power to do, without recourse to the legislature, and almost to the general satisfaction. I conceive, that the same mischievous spirit of alienation has caused the present grievances in this system, as passing through the hands of so many proctors, each of whom has a considerable profit. This is a subject I wish to touch on but lightly, as I know that this particular, being a matter of enquiry in the surveys of the present state of the counties of Ireland, has created an unfounded alarm; however, there are some matters here sanctioned by custom, which there can be no impropriety in canvassing, and one, which seems not a little extraordinary, is the loading the tillage only with the tax; the tithe for meadow is not an acreable charge, but is six pence for any quantity, be it more or less, so that the man, who has one thousand acres of meadow, pays just the same sum as the man, who has but one acre: and as the poorer class have nothing but tillage, of course, the small meadow tax he is not liable to, but he is to the heavy tax, which falls on grain.

Thus,

Thus, it is not the rich in meadow lands and crops of hay, who pay the clergy, but the miserable peasant, out of the scanty morsel he has prepared for his wretched family. I do not now mean, that it is a hardship, that the rich landlord, who has his parks in luxuriant grass, should not contribute to this tax; for, reverting to the original institution, we find it is he, who has been a material sufferer, because, as his lands are liable to the imposition of tithe, of course, by so much as they shall be rated to return to the clergy; by as much will the tenant underrate them in his offer for the rent of the farm; for he knows the lands must pay tithe and taxes, let who will occupy them, and this sum he should deduct from the value of the rent, before he makes his bargain.

I would therefore conceive it is the original proprietor, on whom the tax bears the hardest in the principle, but that the great evil of farming tithes, and the modes of collecting them, cruelly oppress the poorest class of the community; and except in latter years, when corn did not bear so immoderate a price, it is well known, that meadow lands were more profitable than tillage; of course the rich farmer chose the former husbandry, and one very natural reason in this county was, because it removed him beyond the reach of the griping proctor.

Another evil is, that, where so many middle-men intervene, why not charge each of them with a pro-

portion, as they have therein profits clear, and not load the occupier with the entire tax, who pays all of them their immoderate profits, and by the sweat of his brow they are enriched, whilst his own family, worn down with toil, know not the joys of independence, or the blessings of plenty.

It would be an insult to a rational understanding to say, that these are evils, which cannot be redressed; many, though fruitless, have been the obvious remedies shewn, but which have hitherto met with cruel inattention.

On the whole, the clergy are ill paid, the occupier is distressed and imposed on, and the crafty proctor is enriched at the expence of both parties; he must be rooted out, or the system will ever cause a just complaint, and be the continual source of discontent and mischief.

Sect. 4. *Establishment for the Poor.*

The great abuses, which have crept into the poor laws of England, and the severity of the tax should intimidate us from encouraging a system so expensive and oppressive; yet, that something is necessary to be done for the poor of Ireland is an undisputed matter.

The first way to amass a fund for this purpose, is by subscription, in times of plenty, appreciated according

ing to the abilities and occupations of every individual in society, between certain ages.

The following scheme, though not entirely adapted to Ireland, yet a sufficiency may be collected from it, as could be modified, so as to answer very fully the intention. I have given it in the preceding volumes, at the suggestion of the Dublin Society, which I here repeat.

*Heads of Mr. PEW's twenty minutes advice on the
POOR LAWS.*

“ 1st. That a proper officer be appointed for such extent of district as he may be supposed conveniently to superintend, to take a list of the names and places of abode, of all males above the age of eighteen, and of all females above the age of seventeen years, in the same manner as the list is made out for the militia.

“ 2d. That every such male pay two-pence per week, and every such female three farthings or one penny per week, in the hands of the above officer, for the purposes hereafter to be specified.

“ 3d. That the above officer shall be empowered to furnish employment for all such as are willing to work, and who cannot find it for themselves.

“ Whether

" Whether this officer should be chosen annually in rotation, after the manner of an overseer, or whether he would be a permanent officer, upon an adequate salary, will be matter of future consideration; but, if the latter, he should be paid by the community, and not out of the fund.

" 4th. All the poor being thus sure of employment, the master or mistress, for whom they work, should be justified in retaining these sums respectively out of their wages; and, whether they do so or not, they should (in default of the individual) be answerable to the officer for its payment; all masters and mistresses of families should in like manner be answerable for their servants; and all keepers of lodging houses, &c. for their inmates.

" 5th. These sums should be carried weekly to the general treasurer of the *division*, who should give sufficient security for the same.

" 6th. Out of this fund, every male, who is really incapable of labour, should (by virtue of a certificate from the above officer) have A RIGHT TO DEMAND from the treasurer five shillings per week for the first six months, should his illness last so long, and four shillings per week after that period, until he again becomes capable of labour.

" Every female should have A RIGHT TO DEMAND 2s. 6d. per week for the first six months; and afterwards 2s. per week, until she was again able to work; she should be entitled to four weeks full pay at every lying-in.

" Every

" Every male above the age of sixty-five years, whether capable of labour or not, should be entitled to 4s. per week during life. Every female should, after the same age, be entitled to receive 2s. per week during life.

" 7th. Any person having three children under nine years of age, should be entitled to 1s. 6d. per week, until the eldest should have attained the age of nine years; and if he has more than three under that age, he would be entitled to 1s. 6d. per week for each, above that number; and, if any one or more of his children should happen to be idiotick, insane, or otherwise so far disabled, either in body or mind, as to be utterly incapable of labour, each of them should be considered as under the age of nine years, and paid for accordingly.

" If a mother should be left a widow, with three children under nine years of age, she should be entitled to receive 5s.; if with two children, 3s.; and if with one child, 1s. 6d. per week; if more than three under that age, 1s. for each above that number: it being admitted, that all her time is taken up by three, and allowance made for it, but that she is incapable of looking after and taking care of a greater number. The wives of men serving in the militia, and in the army or navy, should, during the absence of their husbands, be considered and provided for in all respects as widows.

" If a child should be left an orphan under nine years of age, 2s. per week shall be allowed from the fund for

its maintenance; if more than one of the same family, i.e. 6d. per week for each, above that number. As there is probably no less friendship amongst the lower than amongst the higher orders of society, it would generally happen, that some friend or relation of the deceased would gladly take charge of the children, provided they could do so without essential loss to themselves: this regulation would effectually prevent that loss; and, to compensate in some degree, for the want of parental affection, 6d. per week more is allowed for the maintenance of an orphan, or a family of orphans, than for a child, or family of children, who still remain their mother. If, however, any being should be so circumstances as not to be thus adopted, the officer above mentioned should be obliged to provide a receptacle for them, which he will always be able to do for the sum or sums above mentioned.

" 8th. All children above nine years of age, if in health, should, if they have no parents, or their parents are not able to provide for them, be put out after the manner of parish apprentices.

" 9th. All persons neglecting or refusing to pay their contributions, should be committed to hard labour, in the house of correction, for the space of

10th. If the fund should any time fall short of the necessary demands upon it, the deficiency should be made up by a parish rate, collected in the same manner as at present, but without any sense of obligation on the part

part of the multitude, (for there would be no saving) who should in all cases receive their relief in the nature of a DEBTANCE.

13th. If the fund (as most probably would happen) should increase beyond the necessary demands upon it, the surplus should on no account be diverted to any other purpose, than the benefit of the subscribers. But when the price of grain exceeded that, which brings it easily within the reach of the multitude, every person, who had three children or more under nine years of age, should have a right to demand such a sum, in proportion to the number of his family, as would reduce the various necessities of life (taking wheat at a standard) to a moderate price; and indeed, I think, in all cases, when the price of grain exceeds that proportion, at which the industrious labourer can afford to come to market, sound policy, as well as common humanity, requires that all large families should be entitled to receive such a sum as above specified, although it should be necessary to collect a rate for the purpose."

This system certainly would not apply in every instance to Ireland; the rate would certainly be near one half too high, and it would require several material alterations. The wives and children of militia men are already provided for by act of parliament; but an extensive establishment for the poor might be formed from the heads of those rules; and, if such a modification was adopted,

adopted, and the example set by the proprietor of a large estate, making it a binding clause on the residents on his lands to observe certain rules, the happiest consequences would doubtless be the result, and would soon be generally followed.

SECT. 5. *Leases.*

In the present prevalent system of alienation, the leases are of too long a period, though the general term is but twenty one years, to which a life is added, or three lives without years, or thirty one years without lives. Formerly, the landlord sought for a tenant to take his ground on a long lease, and even obliged him to renew, on the expiration of his term; but now there is no want of bidders for farms, at considerably a higher rent more than their value.

In lands, which are exhausted, and without any improvement, as generally is the case, when the lease drops, the tenant, if he is solvent, ought to have a long lease, to secure him the money he must expend, to bring the land into heart, and the present term is certainly too short for that speculation. If it were conditioned, that leases should be renewed to the original tenant, if he has made certain valuable and lasting improvements,

provements, it would tend to general advantage, allowing a fair advance in rent, according to the rise of the times, but it will be a long time before the people will have the confidence to expend their capital on a lease for a short period; yet in many parts of England it is constantly done, nor have the tenants ever had cause to repent their credulity.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE USUAL CLAUSES IN
LEASES.

A reservation of royalties to the proprietor; liberty of looking for game.

To permit landlords to search for mines, making the tenant compensation for damage.

To pay all taxes made, or hereafter to be made, quit and crown rent excepted.

To do suit and service at the manor court, and grind corn at the manor mill.

Not to alienate under penalty of double rent, (this clause not sufficiently understood to be insisted on.)

To join neighbouring tenants in making fences, and scowering ditches. (This clause shamefully neglected.)

Not to pare or burn the land under the penalty prescribed by law. *Totally neglected.*

To exhibit lives or prove that they exist, once in every three years.

To

To oblige the tenant to restore all dung to the soil, made on the farm, under penalty of ten shillings per cart-load.

And in some new leases, to restore to the soil all the straw, which his farm yields.

CHAP.

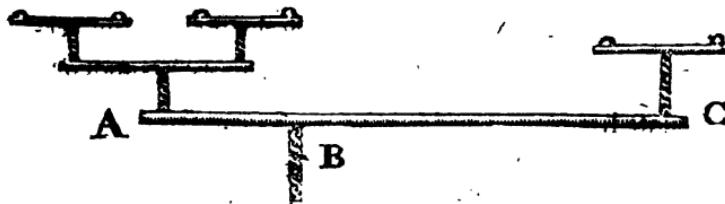
C H A P. V.

I M P L E M E N T S.

THE beaten track of old customs has hitherto prevented an improvement in this particular, and some of the most misshapen ploughs are to be seen here.

The three horse plough abreast is, however, well balanced in the draught, and particularly adapted to this county, where, from the weak powers of their horses, the yoke is too severe for two horses, and yet not sufficiently heavy for four, which gives a great saving; but the principal objection to it, which is a material one, is that the single horse is always walking on the ploughed ground.

The following draught will at once shew the principle of it, as given in the reports of Monaghan.



Let the right line A B C represent the swindle-tree, to which the long chain is yoked, from four feet and a half to five feet long, three inches broad, and two thick:

thick: the usual iron hooks and rings, here called cut weddys, are fixed to each end; the intermediate space is next divided into three equal divisions; at one end (A) is fixed the tree for two horses; at one third of the length of the beam from the point (A) is fixed the chain (B), by which the beam is attached to the plough; at the end (C) the remaining two-thirds of the length of the beam, distant from the chain (B), is fixed the one horse tree; the weight or draft is thus exactly divided amongst the three horses. Let the beam (A C) represent the Roman balance, suspended by, and turning on its axis on the chain (B); the arm (B C) being twice the length of the arm (A B), it follows, by the known rules of that power, that it will require twice the weight at the point (A), to act as a counterpoise to a given weight at the point (C); or, in other words, two horses pulling from the point (A), will be no more than a match (or counterpoise) for one horse at the point (C).

The Scotch plough has been introduced by Mr. Murphy of Cootehill, and its superior powers universally admitted; its cost is four pounds completely mounted.

The wheeled cart is too generally known to require description; the farm car, for drawing manure, consists of long shafts and back flats only, on which the dung basket is placed, as the soil being in so many places

places spiry and boggy, wheels would sink, and be much more laborious than the slide, which is shod with iron.

But in the hilly parts, the dung is carried in two boxes, called bardocks, slung across the back of an horse, having falling bottoms, which drop the load without disturbing the box; these boxes value from three to four shillings per pair.

The spade resembles the English garden spade, with two steps, and requires to be strong, as the ground is very stony; the handle is also considerably larger; they cost, when mounted, from four to six shillings. The shovel of the usual shape costs two shillings and two pence, with handle; fork ditto, one shilling and seven pence halfpenny; hay-rake, eight-pence to ten pence. The harrow is small and light, and always single, its cost from thirteen to twenty shillings; common plough, one guinea and a half.

A hoe has never been used in the county, but in gardens, nor do they ever sow their grain, or potatoes, in drills.

I have seen but one threshing machine in the county, which is at Farnham.

CHAP. VI.

INCLOSING, FENCES, &c.

EXCEPT in the vicinity of towns, and on demesne grounds, the fences and inclosures of Cavan are extremely bad; of course, they want shelter, and are much exposed. They have few stone walls for inclosures, and the poor mound of earth appears more as a boundary mark, than a fence from cattle.

An excellent method for thickening and laying hedges, which makes the best defence, is to procure stakes with a crook on the head, and drive them into the ground with a hatchet, confining the branch, which is nicked and laid down; care should be taken to keep the shoots well trimmed, which will quickly thicken the fence; double ditches are not now made, as was formerly the case, lands being so very dear; but it is absolutely necessary in reclaimed bog, to inclose it with a double ditch, which ought to be wide at top, so that trees might be planted, with which this kind of soil admirably agrees, and the nature of this fence makes a

sure

sure protection to the trees, from young cattle; but to plant trees on the tops of single ditches, it is ten to one, if ever they come to maturity, as they are so exposed to cattle, and other accidents, by which means the ditch is broken down, and the expense goes for nothing. Quicks make the best fence, and will thrive in every soil; they should be carefully hoed, and earthed up for two years, and attention had to weeding them. In making ditches, where the stuff thrown out of the dyke is wet, it should be done by degrees, and not heap too much loose stuff together, as its own weight will consequently burst it, before it is settled; after a little is thrown up, it should be permitted to harden, and worked in dry weather, and after some time to throw up more, until the whole is completed. The month of March is an excellent season for this work, but to ditch in wet weather, insures perpetual repairs and trouble, and a non-attention to the proper season for this work is the cause of so much expense attending it, and makes it discouraging to the farmer.

WALLS.

The Inclosure of walls is little attended to in Cavan; but a dry wall coped at top with mortar, and dashed, makes an excellent and neat fence, and is by no means expensive; a wall of this description, six feet high, two

and a half feet at bottom, reduced to eighteen inches at top, will be a good proportion. This is an excellent inclosure for a paddock.

FARM YARDS.

Hitherto, there has been little concern paid to offices, or farm yards, nor is their disposition here to be recommended; they seem to be erected without plan or method, and occasional additions built as they found the want of offices. At Farnham a great extent of ground is covered with good offices, and an inclosed yard apart for every particular use ; those immediately adjoining the house possess all that convenience which is necessary for so extensive an establishment. More generally, if the necessary offices are erected, they seem to think it quite sufficient, and appear to be ignorant of the importance of an inclosed yard. With the lower clafs, their cow or horse have a corner of the cabin assigned to them, when they are too poor to erect a stable or cow-house, and this is too frequently the case on absentee property.

The immense quantities of manure, which a farm yard would treasure, would soon repay the expense of the wall, and where is the foil, on which such manure would better tell, than on the hills of Cavan, or the valleys when drained ?

The

The most important office in the farm-yard is the barn, the site of which requires particular attention ; this office should consist of two stories in the rear, and but one in front ; of course, it should be built on the side of a rising ground, and the floor joisted, and boarded with oak ; this precludes the possibility of vermin burrowing beneath, and a very convenient office is gained under it.

We little consider the destructive consequences of vermin, which to some farmers are more grievous than all the other taxes they pay ; and how little management will place corn beyond their reach ?

A barn thus constructed, may be built completely for from twenty to thirty pounds, and about twenty shillings will pay for a set of stands and caps for a corn stack, where they commit the greatest plunder ; how often have farmers refused an exorbitant price for their corn, and left it to be devoured by rats and mice, when their market had fallen ?—These caps for corn-stands should be twenty-six inches in diameter, ten of which to project from the pillar, and to be concaved underneath bars a passage ; but the negligent custom of leaving a fork, or any other stick against the stack, is the readiest way for vermin to creep up.

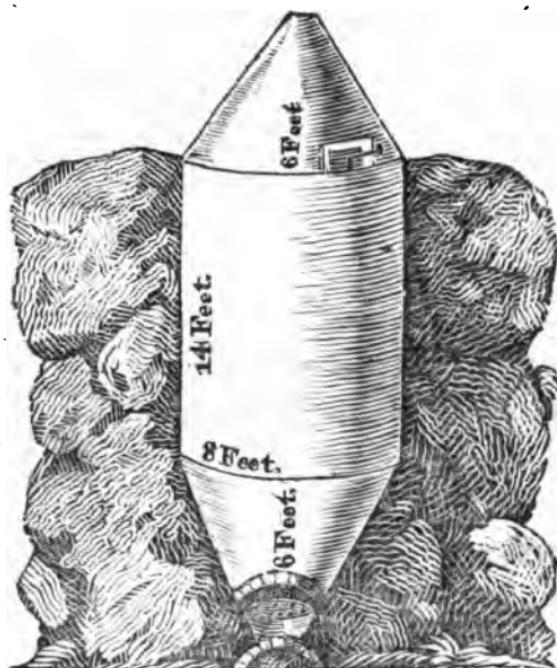
LIME KILNS.

As the manure of lime in every stage is so excellent for the soil of this country, I herewith give the plan of an improved kiln, which exceeds by above one half, the quantity of lime it returns, for that of culm consumed. It has been found by experience, that the lime, which has been burned with turf, is not so strong or so powerful a manure as that burnt with culm; for building it is unquestionably of no such value, and Cavan possesses culm enough, if the proprietors should have the spirit to work their collieries. The deep and clay grounds of this county are powerfully assisted by lime, which, when applied hot from the kiln, will be found to have the best effect; but on their moors and bogs, there is no other manure will work so rapid a change, and prepare them for meadow, yielding crops the most luxuriant, and the sweetest herbage.

This county is naturally fertile, and wants but a little assistance to render it extremely so; every material, but limestone, is in abundance; the centre of the country is best furnished with this valuable mineral, and were a navigation adopted, how readily would this be supplied? Can there be a greater proof of its extraordinary virtue on this soil, than the journeys and expence

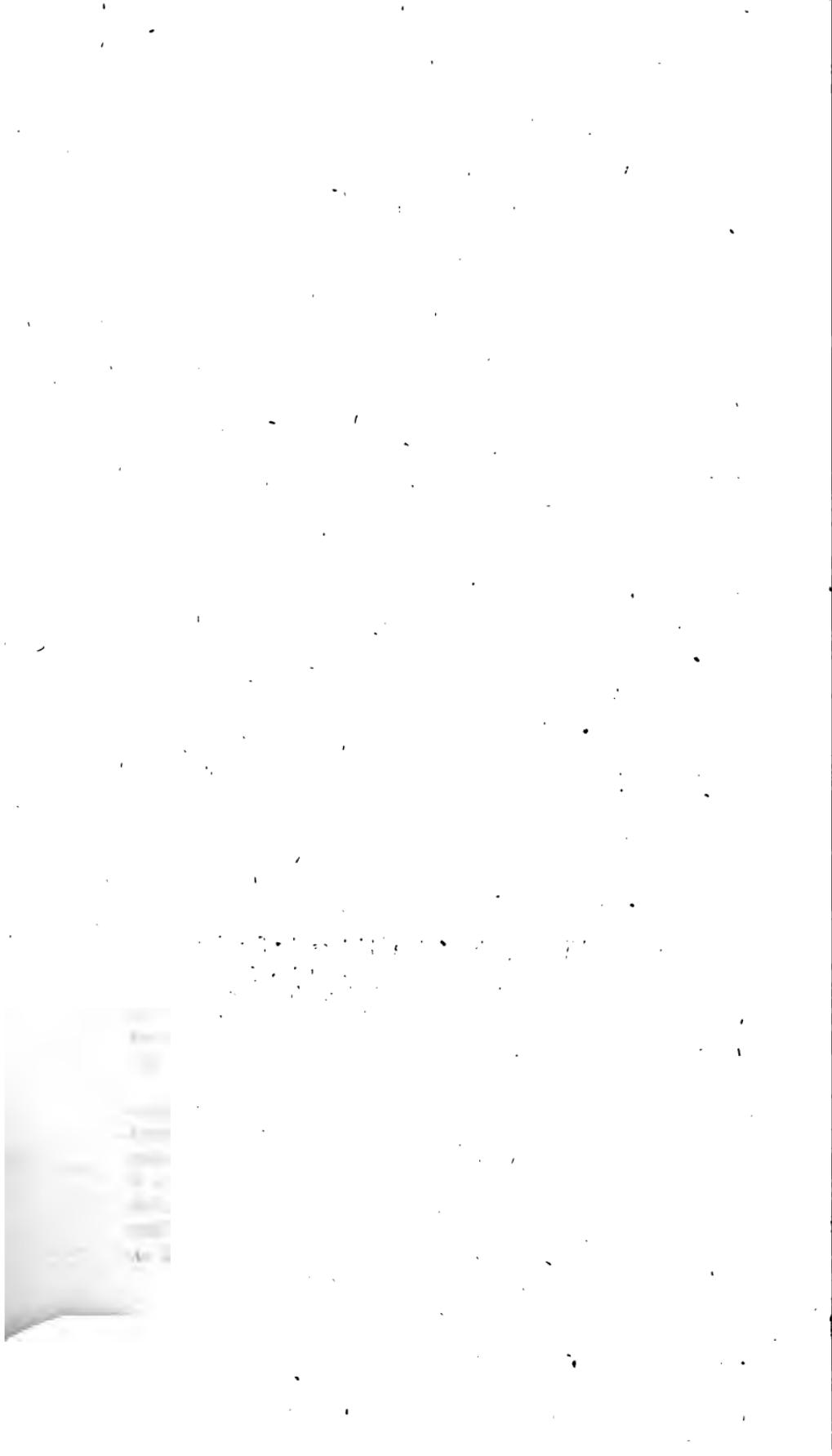
IMPROVED LIME KILN,
INVENTED BY
THOMAS JAMES RAWSON, ESQ.,
OF CARDINGTON,
IN THE
COUNTY OF KILDARE.

To face page 68—County of Cavan Survey.



A lime-kiln should be made as high as the situation of the ground will admit ; 20 feet is better than 16, 30 better than 20. The sides should be perpendicular. The annexed view is for 20 feet high ; the proportions should vary with the height. At bottom a metal plate with holes, should be placed six inches above the lower part, to admit air, and for the shovel to run on in drawing.

The drawing part should be six feet ; width, 8 feet ; perpendicular sides, 14 feet ; on the head a cap is placed, formed like an extinguisher, brought to a hole at top of 12 inches diameter ; in the side of the cap an iron door, with a latch is placed, to admit the charging the kiln, and to be kept close shut. A kiln built on this plan will burn 9 barrels of lime for each of culm, and any sized stones may be thrown in. Two active labourers must attend it.



pence the poor peasants submit to for it, carrying it from twelve to fourteen miles to their little farms, and even obliged to purchase it at the quarry?

ROADS.

The roads of Cavan are extremely bad, and ill contrived; a straight line seems to have been the most desirable object of our predecessors in this particular, no matter how many hills, or I may say mountains, opposed them. In a country, where the entire face presents only small hills, it would strike the ideas of a person, who never saw it, that in the winding of the vallies a road might be found, without encountering the highest tops of the hills; and true it is, that I believe no hilly country is better disposed for such roads than Cavan, though I must allow the materials the country affords are but poor for this purpose; of limestone gravel they have none, but of a green and red slaty flag, which soon pulverizes, they have abundance, and it is durable for about six months. In other counties, where they have the best materials, they do not leave the roads for a year's repair, but they gravel them as they may require it at every assizes; yet in Cavan, where these are not durable, the Grand Jury presents for roads at one assizes only; thus the tax falls heavy on the poor man, whereas, if it were divided, he might be better able to pay it.

In

In summer months he is most liable to be obliged to buy his provisions, as his little stock may be exhausted, and unfortunately it is, that at that time he is called on for the tax, and, if I am well informed, much of the mischief is attributed to the arrears and confusion, in which the cess is involved; these are matters, which require a radical reformation.

TASK WORK.

The rural business of this county, which is paid for by task work, is mowing, threshing, ditching, and turf rearing; for the former the price is agreed on between the parties, according to the weight of the swarth; for the best meadow five shillings per acre, and progressively to its value: from the irregular face of the ground, they more commonly agree by the quantity to be mowed in the gross, and not by an acreable charge; when they mow for daily hire, they are paid two shillings with milk or beer. The farms are so small, and the tillage of course so proportioned, that the inmates of the farm generally do all the rural business; those, who employ threshers, pay eight pence per barrel of fourteen stone for oats, one shilling bere or barley, of wheat they have little or none. Ditching is only to be seen on the lands of gentry, who pay eighteen pence, per running perch, for making

king a ditch seven feet in depth, and six feet wide at top, reduced to two and a half at bottom.

Quicks are sold in the markets at from four to five shillings per thousand. Reaping is done by daily pay, and they have never the high wages here, which in Leinster are paid for this work; one shilling per day is generally the highest price; for binding, and all work done by women in the field, from four to six pence halfpenny per day.

Turf cutters will earn one shilling and four pence per day, where they work by task, or one shilling for daily pay; diet is very seldom included in any of these branches,

The average wages of handicrafts, such as carpenters, masons, weavers, coopers, smiths, thatchers, &c. amounts to two shillings per day, or to one shilling and four pence with diet.

The weavers, of whom there are one or more in every house, will earn from one shilling to eighteen pence per day, I mean the journeymen; the man, who works for himself, will sometimes not make more, and at times, his labour will return him above five shillings, perhaps the average may be two shillings.

As these reports are printed in this present out-line, merely to lay the foundation of a more perfect work, I shall now enter into a minute account of the present state and customs of each barony, so that every individual of this county,

entity, into whose bands this book may fall, may turn to that particular part, where his local concerns lie, and with which he is best acquainted; by this means, he can with very little trouble point out any defects or omissions he may find, which can be readily corrected in another edition, and a more perfect plan can be adopted after the necessary information is collected. In the volumes I have already had the honor to present to the Dublin Society, this plan has met their approbation, and in the following baronial tour, each article, as suggested in their detail of matter for investigation, will be enquired into.

C H A P. VII.

BARONY OF LOUGHTEE.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THE culture is mostly performed with the spade, and in some places by two horses abreast where they plough, which is chiefly the lea only for potatoes; or with many, they only mark out the ridges with the plough, spread the dung on the grass, on which is laid the seed, and throw up the earth from the trench; about three fifths of their land is under tillage; oats bear a proportion of twenty to one, to all other grain. Flax always follows potatoes, and is succeeded by oats. If they sow wheat, it is only after a summer's fallow, and but in a small proportion, and the crop by no means repays the expense so well as oats, as the produce is trifling, and the grain impoverished.

At Farnham only, are oxen used in the plough, they are harnessed by the neck yoke, and also worked from the horn, in a manner I have not before observed,

as the bar is behind the horn, and answers like a neck yoke to couple the oxen together; but there are cushions strapped across the forehead and round the horn, from the lower part of which is a considerable share of the draught, for which reason I cannot think it at all equal to Mr. Darby's method, of Leap-castle, in the King's county; a plan of which is annexed, and it is by far the more simple yoke; besides, there is no draught on the horn, which is a very tender part, and should not be oppressed.

Here, there is no market for grain, as all the corn is brought to market in meal. Oatmeal and potatoes are the only articles of provision for sale in any of the markets of the county. If oats are wanted for purchase, the farmers houses are the places resorted to.

At Farnham only is green food cultivated; rape, cabbages, and turnips, are there produced in abundance, and stall-feeding constantly attended to, on a very large scale, and to a considerable profit.

MARLE.

This species of manure will be found to answer extremely well with the cold clays of this country, it being highly calcareous, and should be spread on ploughed ground; the best time to apply it is in summer,

YOKE FROM THE HORN.

To face page 74—County Cavan Survey.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Fig. 1. This Yoke consists of a flat piece of ash, about eight inches wide in the middle, and reduced to about three inches at the ends, (falling off like the handle of a battledore,) and is proportioned in length to the size of the ox, the object being just to clear his sides from the traces, or chains, by this is meant the distance between the letters, A. A. This board is lined with woollen cloth, and stuffed with hair. To an iron stape affixed at either end is hooked a long trace or chain, which reaches from the extremities of the swindle-tree: it must be observed, that the draught is consequently from the neck, where the strength of that animal prevails, and not at all from the horns, to which the board is only strapped, to prevent its falling off; so that the ox, rather pushes than pulls in this yoke. For further particulars, and experiments, See King's County Reports, Chapter 8, Barony of Ballibritt.

Fig. 2. Represents the back-band for the horn yoke, the inside is stuffed with hair, the circles at A. are plates of iron, nailed to the wood, which is of ash, fourteen inches long, and three and an half broad, concaved within, to lie across the back of the ox: from either end hangs a chain of five links, to which the traces are hooked up.

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mer, and it should be laid on with regularity and evenness, in order that the rain and dews may descend on it, and drive into the ground the virtue it contains, which are fixed salts ; these salts being mixed with the natural salts of the earth, on which it is spread, now very actively commence their operations on the soil, and cause it to turn up tily and friable, and the longer rest the ground has had, the better it is prepared for this manure, as the natural salts such land possesses, are in a stronger proportion, and more revigorated than ground, which has been lately under a long course of tillage ; with new ground, it will apply with still more efficacy ; I have heard it mentioned, that it is very injurious to barley, until brought down previously with other crops.

In ground, which has been limed, it is too often the case, that farmers suppose they have laid in an inexhaustible stock of revigorating matter, and oppress the soil with repeated crops of corn, without an intermediate vegetable one, which would considerably renew it, and on such worn out ground marle will be found particularly nutritious ; for ground, which has long been under corn, becomes too loose, and its salts and sulphurs are exhausted and absorbed by the atmosphere ; whereas the marle confines the sulphurs of the soil within itself, and prepares it for new action.

In this country, marle is found mostly in low moist bottoms, contiguous to moors, and can be raised at a small

small expense. The best time for its application is in July or August, and being evenly spread, it would be adviseable to harrow it into the ground.

Before any further trouble is taken, let it be exposed to rain, which, I have already shewn, particularly assists and hastens its powers.

After several crops, it will be found to make the ground very loose and crumbly, and a crop of peas will soon flatten it, which I have heard recommended. The affinity, which marle bears to limestone in its natural properties on the soil, is so extremely obvious, that it would appear, as if they were one and the same substance reduced into different stages; and it is well known, that by exposing marle to the influence of salt water, it quickly petrifies, and is changed into a hard stone.

The colours of marle are white, grey, black, blue, and red. The black marle I have seen proved of extraordinary powers, but the white and blue are the only colours, which marles here have.

Where limestone does not abound, marle may be safely applied; on dry lands it is better to apply the softer part of the marle, and spread the stiff cloggy marle on the moist ground.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

This country is exceedingly grassy, which varies from a strong coarse spiry grass, to a very delicate and luxuriant blade, but the soil is not inclined to much other herbage. The breed of cattle appears to have some very good points, and with attention might be brought to be extremely so, by introducing good bulls into the country. At Farnham, the breed of black cattle is very fine, and brought from Devon and Leicestershire, at a heavy expenfe. Lord Farnham has lately given one hundred and forty guineas for two cows.

On this extensive estate, the tenants have the advantage of the best bulls gratis; but they fear to admit them amongst their cows, as they all hold such a small quantity of land, and keep cows only for dairy purposes; and it is certain the improved breed are very inferior to the native Irish in this respect, though they fatten on a less quantity of ground, and a poorer pasture, and will nearly double the weight of our stock in the like space of time; yet they by no means yield so much milk.

The markets or fairs for cattle are very bad, and I apprehend in a great measure so, for want of encouragement.

Why

Why should there not be held a great annual fair for cattle in the province of Ulster?—It will be answered, because the country is not engaged in feeding, nor the soil so productive of luxuriant grass; but I conceive it is, because the country is less improved in agriculture, that it has not so luxuriant herbage, and, of course, is so inconsiderably occupied in feeding.

On viewing the soil, we find it has depth sufficient, and that there are materials enough at hand to ameliorate it, and prepare it for grass, to which it is naturally inclined. It is no difficult matter then to change a coarse grass to a better quality, and, here where it has been done, we find cattle fatted to great weight and profit. Several neighbouring counties are also grassy, and want but draining, to produce excellent sound walks.

If an annual shew of cattle was encouraged, it would be a very leading step to so desirable a purpose. This matter could certainly not be expected to take place with very rapid strides, much difficulty would oppose it, and it would require a very great patronage to forward it. Should such a shew be ever established, Bel-turbet town has numerous advantages to recommend it as the place of meeting. General prices of cattle at fairs are extremely high, in a considerably greater proportion than in the counties of Munster, and they are in much worse condition.

Lord Farnham, who has infinitely the best stock, sends his cattle to Smithfield market; there is no other principal

principal feeder in the county; his Lordship stall-feeds his bullocks with rape and hay, and fattens them very frequently to forty or fifty guineas price. It must be observed, the parks of Farnham are finely reclaimed, and equal to feed to a great weight, and shew what improvement could be made in the agriculture of this county. These reclaimed lands are now so profitable, as to repay many times the original cost; I speak of useful improvements on the lands only.

The ornamental grounds are not considered as yet.

The oxen ate constantly housed in winter, on the lands of Farnham, and return a great supply of manure; they are littered with bog-stuff, over which is a layer of straw.

Artificial grasses have not been successfully cultivated, but clover thrives admirably.

The late Lord Farnham had some fainfoin and timothy grass sowed, but they did not succeed; this is easily accounted for, as the quarry appears within two spades depth of the greater part of the demesne, and the fainfoin being a tap-rooted plant, which shoots very deeply into the soil, before it comes to any vigour, it could not, of course, thrive here.

In this barony, the hay is made in cap-cocks, very small, teaded out often, and gets quite too much of the weather, then trammed into small cocks, two of which are made contiguous to each other, and in a few days joined

joined in one; in this state, it is set to lie for several weeks in the meadow, and much of the tops and bottoms of the cocks go to waste; the ground they stand on is scalded, and will give no grass the next year; and, when the hay is drawn home, the after-grass, which is then arrived to its full vigour, is cut up and trampled. If the climate is such, as I have heard advanced, that hay cannot be drawn home in lap-cocks as in England, surely it might be made in small cocks in the haggard, and thus the fine after-grass, which is so valuable, would be spared from the waste it now is liable to.

Of hides and tallow, what the country affords, are manufactured in Cavan town; price of the former, from thirty-five to fifty shillings per cwt. this last year; and of tallow, from seven shillings and sixpence, to eight shillings and sixpence per stone. Of wool there is yet no manufactory; but one is now about to be established by Lord Farnham.

COMPARATIVE VIEW OF GRASS AND TILLAGE LANDS.

It is a matter worth our enquiry, whether in small farms it were to the advantage of the occupiers to keep them under tillage or grass; but in the present division of the lands of this country, the matter does not fairly apply,

apply, as 20 acres of ground should be the least quantity, where a sufficient profit would be reaped from the farm.

Hence it would appear, that allotments of land are too small here, and badly managed; doubtless, they are so, and the business of the loom and of agriculture would surely thrive better, if separately and distinctly followed. I mean not to deprive the weaver of his garden; that he should certainly have to relax from the sedentary business of the loom; but I would by all means send him to that market for his provisions, to which he brings his commodity.

A statement of the Stock of a grass and tillage farm of twenty acres—each.

STOCK FOR TILLAGE FARM.

	£.	s.	d.
Rent, at 30s. per acre,	-	-	30 0 0
Tithes and taxes, 6s. per acre,	-	6	0 0 0
Two horses,	-	-	20 0 0
Plough and tackle,	-	-	2 5 6
Harrow,	-	-	0 15 0
Other implements, as shovels, spades, pickax, forks, &c.	-	-	2 5 6
Shoeing, per year,	-	-	3 10 0
Keeping two horses the winter half- year, at 4 cwt. of hay per week, with pasture hay, 3s. per cwt.	-	15	12 0
Oats, for ditto, six barrels, at 10s. per barrel,	-	-	3 0 0
Seed for 16 acres, say oats, twenty- eight stone to the acre, and 10s. per barrel of fourteen stone,	-	16	0 0
Labour of a boy the year round, at 6d. per day.	-	-	7 16 0
<hr/>			<hr/>
	£.	107	0 0
	<i>Stock</i>		

Stock of a grass farm, twenty acres.

	£.	s.	d.
Rent, 30s. per acre,	-	30	0 0
Tithe in the county for hay,	-	0	0 6
Taxes, 6d. per acre,	-	0	10 0
Dairy implements,	-	3	0 0
One horse only wanted to take the dairy produce to market in summer,	10	0	0
Shoeing and grass,	2	5	6
Eight cows, at 6l. each,	48	0	0
Hay-making, additional labour,	1	0	0
Boy, the year round,	7	16	0
Implements of husbandry, and car,	3	8	3
<hr/>			<hr/>
	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
	106	0	3

Thus it appears, that the sum necessary to stock the tillage farm exceeds that for the grass farm.

But let us now see the creditor side of these accounts, and the difference becomes very serious; the sixteen acres of oats, and the straw the farmer has to spare, will scarcely repay his expences, and he has the profits of the other four acres to live on.

Graz Farm.

CREDITOR.

	£. s. d.
To 8 cows, at 10 <i>l.</i> per cow profit,	80 0 0
To the litter of sows fed from the dairy, say 20 pigs per annum, at forty shillings,	40 0 0
	<hr/>
	120 0 3
Deduct expences,	106 0 3
	<hr/>
Balance,	£.13 19 9
	<hr/>

Allow the dairy farmer the like profits as the tillage farmer for his support, and we see that there is a balance in his expences, in his favour, of 13*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, and his stock to the good.

Encrease the number of acres on the farm, and the proportion is still more considerable in favour of dairy husbandry, and the value of manure, which is made, is incalculable; besides, what little anxiety is here required, and how smooth goes on the regular care of the dairy, which no weather prevents?—Except in seasons when corn bears an immoderate price, the farmer to make

make out his rent, not to say to have a profit, must himself hold the plough, and have a son to drive it; his stock of cattle is insufficient to supply manure for the land, and he is too poor to purchase it; and thus the farm quickly is impoverished.

As to the occupier advantages result in grazing, so to the landed proprietor will they hold equally good.

A grass farm cannot be exhausted by bad management, as a tillage farm may, in injudicious hands, and the grass farm does not require half the expences of offices, which the other does; a cow-house and dairy only are requisite here; under the roof of the dwelling the dairy will be afforded; and the most comfortable cow-house I have seen with a poor man, sufficient for twenty cows, was had at only the expense of the walls, on which the hay-rick was made; this held as a covering, so long as shelter was required in winter.

The stable, the barn, and the granary, will bear no comparison to this; besides, they will all require repairs; supposing a pasture farm out of lease, how much more valuable is it to the proprietor than that under tillage?

The heavy burthen attending a farm is the expence of horses; go on a large scale, and say fifteen acres may be compassed by one horse; for a farm of five hundred acres of tillage, 33 horses will be required. Whereas, in dairy husbandry four or five will do all the work of the like extent. In the latter end of this book,

hook I shall endeavour to shew, that the most perfect husbandry is to connect both pursuits. I only here state the balance in favour of dairy, when the farmer chooses to confine himself to one only.

Sect. 3. Farms,

Are generally small, but yet considerably larger than in other parts of the country; the average here may be fifteen acres.

The houses have little to recommend them, being poor indeed, except on Lord Farnham's estate, where they are now erecting very neat and commodious farm houses, consisting of every necessary apartment, and two stories high. These are built at a no less cost than sixty pounds each, which is quite too much. When the tenant builds, he is supplied with timber from his Lordship's woods, but he must bear all other expenses.

Leases are more generally for three lives, or thirty-one years, but a very considerable tract is held at will, and, of course, has no appearance of improvement. Tenants pay all cses; one horse may be the proportion to ten acres, but they hire and borrow occasionally from each other. Fields are in size from about three to

to four acres; the fences are tolerably good in partial spots. On the Farnham estate several of them are well quicked, and dressed with care and judgment; from thence to Virginia looks like a bleak un hospitable common.

Draining is scarcely at all attended to, but in demesne grounds. In Farnham the drains are numerous, yet the land still inclines to marshes. After having marked out the drain about eighteen inches in breadth, the sod is skinned off, and the drain sunk from fourteen to eighteen inches, in the centre of which is sunk another narrow pipe about four inches square; sometimes they sod this pipe over, as is described in the Monaghan Survey, or they lay flags over it as a substitute for sods, and the sod, which is cut out, is laid in its own place again, after the trench is filled with clay. These drains have all some good effect, but yet will never reach the evil effectually, until the soil is opened; for the surface is a loam of a porous and spongy substance, which quickly imbibes the rain and moisture, and descends on the stiff clay, that lies immediately under it: this can only be opened by gravel to separate the soil, or by highly fermenting manures, which require a considerable expence. In its present state it answers well for grass, and will give an excellent pasture; the other process might make it good tillage land, then why change the face of nature to disadvantage?

Marle,

Marle, limestone, and limestone gravel, are all found here, yet partially confined to this neighbourhood.

HOEING.

Hoeing of crops, which is never practised in this county, cannot be sufficiently recommended, where the deep clays are so favourable for this important branch of husbandry; the horse-hoe is evidently the most desirable, and least expensive implement, and the manner of the sowing of the corn in this county is favourable to it, but would still be more so, if the ridges, on which the corn is sowed, were less wide; this would soon lead into drill husbandry, the superior advantages of which, when shown, would never be abandoned.

The great weight of labour in Cavan is manual, and worked with the spade, to which this instrument, which I would recommend, comes very near in its operation; its use is exactly the same. The grain, when sowed, requires the natural food of the earth to vegetate it, and bring it to perfection; this food is exhausted in a great measure by the roots of the plant lying dormant in it, and this implement conveys a fresh supply of food to the roots, which is new earth; for the greater the action and room for spreading which the roots have, which is doubtless increased by loosening

loosening the soil with the hoe, the greater and more luxuriant will be the crop; for it does not depend so much on the quantity of the surface being under grain, as it does on the soil being frequently stirred and loosened in a due proportion, which proves the benefits of drill husbandry; to overstock the surface is to waste the seed; and to starve the plants produced from it, not having nutriment sufficient to bring them to perfection.

Though in the broadcast husbandry the corn may look best in spring, yet it never has so good a produce as that drilled, as has been fully exemplified by numerous experiments; and the crop, which was *dunged* in the same field, was considerably inferior to that *hoed*, which had no dung.

When I come to speak of drill husbandry, this subject will again come into consideration, and the numerous disadvantages, attending the abuse of the broadcast, will only require a little attention to carry with it clear demonstration. The surest evidence is experiment; I could wish that drilling was only tried, and I am confident it would be found, in every consideration, superior to the broadcast, which it is high time to explode for ever.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

The population of this district is very great, and the abundance of fuel is no secondary cause for it. Six to a house is not beyond the average return, and the people are more engaged in husbandry than in manufacture, comparatively with other parts of this county. Cavan, which is the chief town, is pretty large, but its market but inconsiderable; the main street has some excellent and well built houses, but the other streets are narrow, and very ill built and straggling. The environs are disgusting with mean cabins, almost obscured with the dunghills heaped in front.

This is too much the description of the vicinity of every town in the county.

Yarn, which is so considerable a commodity in their markets, is but little sold here, and very much under the price, which it brings in other towns. Potatoes are sold in bulk by the sack, and meal both by weight and measure.

The gaol is a strong excellent building, but not roomy enough, and a large military force is always quartered here, where is also a considerable depot for military stores. Three stage coaches run through this town. Until the act of Union it returned two members

bers to parliament. The patronage of the borough was jointly in the Clements and Nesbit families. The weekly market is held on Tuesdays; a very considerable establishment, worth above eight hundred pounds per annum, is afforded for the school of this town, yet by no means on that large scale, for which its funds are adequate. I have not seen the grant or patent, on which it depends, so I cannot say, with whom lies the fault for its neglect. The gentleman, who *nominally* presides at present, has long enjoyed the emoluments, and consigned the school concerns to a deputy for his superintendance; but does this answer the original and benevolent design of the royal founder? did he mean, that his generous donation was to become the individual property of a nominal master, and that on the management of his deputy the credit of the seminary was to be founded? But such a man, as the late Rev. Mr. Meares, who so worthily discharged that important office, rarely appears in such a situation; had that gentleman the full emoluments of the school, which he so well deserved, perhaps the establishment would have been extended on that scale, for which its revenues are so ample.

Several other such seminaries in Ireland are supported by grants of immense tracts of land, and, it is well known, some of them are well attended to; yet it is notorious, that the great emoluments, which result to individuals, might be extended more generally on such a scale

a scale as would better provide for the education of youth. To elucidate this matter requires a little explanation of the minutiae of these establishments, of which, I believe, the following will be found to be a correct statement.

The school lands are held by the occupiers on the like terms as Bishop's lands, that is, by lease of twenty-one years; revenues far beyond what is immediately necessary for the principal to derive are yielded to him, yet in no proportion is his interest equal to that of the lessee, who derives from him, and whose rents are little more at present, (*in some cases exactly the same*) than they were when the school was first founded; small fines at short periods secure the renewal of the leases, and as the incumbent is ignorant who is to be his successor, he, of course, is attentive only to his individual interest. Thus we find, that some of these establishments would, if set to the value of the lands, return at least *five*, in some instances *ten* times the present revenue, which shews what a fund now exists for the education of youth, if it were managed to good account.

The original intention being founded on a broad and liberal scale, a great deal of reprehension lies with those, who hold so sacred a charge, and yet neglect their duty in not carrying it into effect; nor can it be considered less than a national disgrace, that it has not long ago been settled by parliament on a sure and lasting foundation.

dation. On such an important concern as the education of our youth, it is shameful that individual interest has so long preponderated; it is high time that monopoly should give place to the general good, and, where the funds are adequate to very extensive establishments, good stewarding is only required to render such desirable purposes fully productive.

In this town is also the court-house, and the county infirmary, which is well attended to, and to which the county pay one hundred pounds annually; the gentry also subscribe liberally to this excellent institution, and government has the nomination of the surgeon; there is a good mill-site also, but the mill is in ruins. There are also six houses for widows, a fund for which was bequeathed, in the profits of a good farm, by a lady of the Lanesborough family, which the trustees see are duly appropriated, according to the will of the humane founder.

All the land around the town is excellent, and in a high state of perfection; the town parks show how grateful a soil has been improved, and the fences are well kept; the average value may be judged at five pounds per acre. All the corn in this district, and indeed, throughout Cavan, is trenched, and sown on high ridges, just as potatoes are sown, so that, before the corn shoots high, the whole county would appear to a Leinster farmer, as if under potatoes. This crop they never drill; in some places they could not attempt it

it without previous draining, where the ground is so wet, that the crop could not be earthed up, but with the spade and shovel.

Approaching the vicinity of towns, the habitations of the farmers are better; the general cost of fuel may be four pence the kish of turf on the bog, which horses may be hired to draw, at one shilling and seven pence halfpenny per day.

Food principally is potatoes and oatmeal, and always good wholesome vegetables in the summer season, of which beans make a principal share; formerly much bacon was consumed in the cabins, but not so now; since the war, the price has been so much increased.

The clothing frizes, which are made at home, or those for sale are had from Connaught; the general cost of this article from two shillings and sixpence, to three shillings per yard. The price of potatoes will average about three pence per stone, and oatmeal ten shillings and six pence per cwt. not taking the two scarce years into account.

Wages, seven pence to eight pence through the year, for constant employment to both cottier and labourer, which is extraordinary, as the former has the advantages of a house and half an acre for twenty shillings, and the grass of a cow for thirty shillings; if two men attend from the one family, then they have the hay and grass for two cows, and an acre of ground, which acre and the house they pay no more for than twenty shillings;

ings; the only difference between these two workmen is, that the cottier is bound for a year, the day labourer only during his pleasure.

The tithe will be found in the table at the conclusion; beer much in demand, since the extraordinary rise on spirits. In no county were more private distilleries formerly than in Cavan, and the very simple and expeditious process they used, placed them beyond the reach of discovery. When they malted they threw a sack of oats in a lake, for so long as it should steep, and they spread it under their bed, or the most convenient place for preparing it. They seldom made more than one charge of their puny still, and, if the revenue officer was at hand, all was instantly conveyed into the lake; as on the borders of these waters, or in islands inclosed by them, was the place chosen for the distillery. Notwithstanding the frequent seizures, which were trifling as to value, the expence of the establishment was so small, that it was quickly at work again, and nothing effectually put a stop to them but the late scarcity, which made every man discover and give information where they were, in apprehension of the stock of the country being insufficient for provisions.

Near the borders of this barony is the town of Belcarbet, whence is a navigation to within three miles of Ballyshannon through Lough Erne, and into which the river Erne flows. This town formerly returned two members to parliament; the patronage of the borough was

was formerly in the Butler family, but lately in Lord Belmore. The market here is but indifferently supplied, though the very best situation for trade of any part of the county, having the advantage of the navigation to its very centre. Oatmeal, potatoes, and a good deal of yarn are sold here, but no webs; in the customs, which are paid for commodities entering the market, there is a very glaring imposition, which materially injures the town, and ought surely to be redressed; they take their customs in kind, for which they have not any lawful standard or measure, or if they have, they do not use; the collector of the customs imposes a large wooden dish full of meal from each sack, the size of which is never adjusted; consequently, as the markets rise, so do his tolls; the owner of a sack of meal, which was lately worth near six shillings per stone, was obliged to give this huge measure, which, from its size, I should suppose contains considerably more than fourteen pounds. I question is there a market in Ireland, where the custom in cash, on such an article, exceeds three pence; in the adjoining village of Ballyhayes it amounts to but two pence per sack, and in this little spot the market is considerably better of course, than in Belturbet. These customs are now individual property, and are set annually for about one hundred pounds. This terrible monopoly, which is such destruction to the town and its proprietors, is now vested in two families, who alternately preside over the

the corporation, by which and a provost the town is governed, and is now in fact their estates. Whether this patronage has descended to them by inheritance under the same patent, with the grant of the extensive commonage adjoining, I am at a loss to know, but the following circumstance seems to favour the supposition.

The Lanesborough family, who enjoyed this estate, made a grant of two hundred acres of excellent land adjoining Belturbet to the provost and burgesses of the corporation and their *heirs*, in mistake for their *successors*. These are now divided and separately inclosed, and are termed burgess acres, as in the original grant it said the commons consisted of two hundred acres, which was only a guess as to their contents, being very considerably more; but when they became the property of the burgesses, the land was divided into so many parcels as each had a claim to; and though under the nominal return of so many acres, according to the division each was entitled unto, yet some individuals possessed five or six times their proportion of the original two hundred acres, and a plot of ground was rated as one acre, which, perhaps, contained from five to seven; these are significantly termed burgess acres, and, perhaps, under such circumstances the entire property of the coporation is now enjoyed by the descendants of the original company. I do not know, whether the act

of Union makes a final settlement of the borough interests, that are abolished, but I conceive it would be a very fair act to take so heavy an oppression off this town, which is admirably situated for trade, and by all means to recompence individuals, who might be deprived of a legal inheritance.

A very extensive commonage yet remains in the environs, which is the property of the inhabitants, for some very peculiar privileges are enjoyed by them, which shew how much the family, who were the founders, had the prosperity of the town at heart, and how much their benevolent and public spirited exertions have been perverted. The town was regularly divided into compartments, termed home-steads, each of which contains 36 yards, and to which is annexed a proportionate quantity of bog, and every householder has a right to graze on the commons. To keep these in heart, they take off their cows every second month. They have also the advantage of a very excellent flour mill, with two water wheels under-shot, and are so well supplied, as to be able to grind constantly, being built on the river Erne. There are also in this town a distillery, brewery, and malt-houses, with an excellent market-house, over which is a session's-house, ornamented with a handsome town clock; these buildings command the town, and were all erected at the private expense of the noble family, who were the original founders.

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The church is spacious, on which is now laid a new roof, and is getting a capital repair, which all the churches in the county are shamefully in want of.

In the church-yard is the vestige of a great fortification, inclosing an extensive plot of ground; the bastions and salient angles are admirably planned, of great strength, and yet perfect.

This town has some neat houses, but in general they are mean and thatched; on that part, which is the estate of the Earl of Farnham, some new and very handsome slated houses have been lately erected, and are a considerable ornament, and seem to be an encouragement for progressive improvement.

The navigation from Lough Erne is open to this town, with water enough in winter, and by reducing a few flats might be made completely so in all seasons. The river Erne, which flows through Coote-hill, I have just described as watering this town, into which is discharged the river of Cavan, and several lesser streams, with the waters from the great lakes at Shercock, Farnham, and Killesandra, so that any navigation, which should be made to Lough Erne, must evidently pass here, nor can any place be better situated for trade or for improvement; the beautiful expansion of water and picturesque views are highly engaging, and the land is a sound limestone; wheat is cultivated, but yet in small proportion, though more than usual. The

average return of an acre of barley is twelve barrels of sixteen stones to the barrel, of which a considerable quantity is sown, and of oats fourteen barrels of fourteen stones per barrel. Flax and potatoes about the same as the general return of the country; viz. eighty stones of rough flax to the acre fit for the heckle, average value £.16, and of potatoes sixty barrels of forty stone each, which may be worth about three halfpence per stone. Ashes, marl, and dung are the manures of this neighbourhood, though they have good limestone, and much of their soil consists of the deep clays, which would be so well reclaimed with lime; yet they never use it, nor do they burn it for building, but send for it to the county of Fermanagh, and it is brought down the lake.

But it is to be hoped, that the numerous advantages, which Belturbet possesses, will ere long be brought into fair play.

Ballyhayes is a common village, but has an improving market, and here is a flour and oatmeal mill; it is situate in the parish of Castleterra, which is as often styled the parish of Ballyhayes; hence a very amicable, and laudable agreement has taken place between the incumbent and his parishioners, that they shall pay eight pence halfpenny per acre, for all tithes; this includes meadow, arable pasture, and bog. These dues are easily collected without the interference of a pro-

tor,

tor, and all parties are satisfied; and here a particular and most honourable condition is observed, that the man, who is known by the parish to be actually a pauper, is excluded in the assessment, and there is, of course, no tax upon industry. In some particular parts of the county is a modus of one shilling per acre for hay, but more generally, as I already stated, six pence only, be the quantity more or less: flax has the like rate; but I cannot learn that there is tithe for potatoes in any part of the county, though the proctors insist they are entitled to eight shillings per acre, should they choose to exact it.

The market-house of Ballyhayes is arched, as also is the ring of the old town, and built of brick. These antique and fantastical buildings shew Ballyhayes to have been once a place of considerable note, being remarkably furnished with all the old-fashioned ornaments, that the Lords of this county were particularly attached to, and proves their fondness of displaying those appearances of grandeur, with which the stranger might be prepossessed, in his entrance into their domains.

The mansion-house seems well constructed for the indulgence of feudal vanity; having an extensive and very elevated front, and is curiously arched: the demesne is in a rapid decay as to beauty, being all set out in small farms, and the fine woods, for which Ballyhayes was famous, have fallen beneath the merciless

axe,

but a little yet remains. Timber is, of course, very dear in this neighbourhood. This estate was a long time disputed by the families of Newburgh and Burrowes, and after several verdicts for both parties in the court of Exchequer, it was removed to Chancery, and from thence to the House of Lords, where it was confirmed to the present proprietor, Mr. Newburgh. What remains of the town are very mean thatched cabins, with the exception of one or two good houses; it is now a place of no consequence.

The village of Butler's-bridge is also in this barony, where there is an oatmeal mill and a good osiery, but no nursery; it has not one slated house. The situation of the village is picturesque and engaging, on a pleasant stream, but the cabins give it but a mean appearance.

The mountains of Arghill and Ballynanaght lie to the southward of this barony, and that of Slieb-glas a good deal more to the northward. Taking a general view of the barony of Loughtee, we find it is the best ground in Cavan, lies most central, having a good deal of limestone, and limestone gravel, and possessing a soil, that is highly improveable with these manures: in general it is the best fenced and inclosed part of the county; it has a considerable bleach-green, Mr. Neal the proprietor. The people are much engaged in the linen business; more than one-third of the carvagh

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in Cavan is in the district, which argues its superior state of improvement, so long ago as that division of the county took place; they generally have one-third of their farm in grass, and but in one place only is green food preserved for cattle in the spring. The diocesan residence of Kilmore is in this barony, and the demesne is very excellent ground, sound sheep-walk, and here are pits of the best limestone gravel. It seems as if the people were ignorant of the value of this, the very best material for roads, which they neglect, and repair with frequent coverings of rotten slate, which is quickly pulverized, and the first rain, that comes, makes it a heavy sludge, being of much more mischief to the roads than use.

The country in this district is very fine, from Farnham to Belturbet, but has some considerable tracts of bog. Adjoining Farnham is Mr. Saunderson's seat, which is beautifully planted, and has a rich grassy soil.

The house is on a bold commanding site, and very handsome.

Castle Saunderson, the seat of Francis Saunderson Esq. who represents the county, is richly wooded with oak, and is a very extensive demesne; the roads through this part of the country are excellent indeed, which is a very agreeable surprize to a traveller in Cavan. The water in Castle Saunderson is highly picturesque, and completely furnishes this luxuriant landscape;

scape; how extremely beautiful is Lough Erne in every view, and here its banks are crowned with the richest foliage. The rising plantations will afford a charming diversity, and promise all that can be anticipated from the genuine taste, with which they are so elegantly disposed. Clover-hill, the seat of J. Saunder-
son, Esq. is also a very beautiful demesne, and finely improved. This gentleman has at a considerable ex-
pense, and with great judgment, reclaimed a vast tract
of land, and ranks in the foremost class of the experi-
mental and best farmers in the county. A spacious
lake adorns and bounds his demesne, which is elegantly
laid out and richly planted, and a very excellent
mansion has been just finished. The dead level of the
lake in the opposite shore has been drained with great
effect, both as to beauty and the acquisition of a con-
siderable range of land now made excellent; I consider
it particularly unfortunate for these Memoirs, that I
had not the pleasure of meeting this gentleman in my
tour, from whence I would doubtless have had much
valuable information.

Farnham, the charming seat of the Earl of Farnham,
which is so finished an ornament to this county, con-
tains one thousand two hundred acres of land, and
above six hundred of wood and water. I have already
mentioned in the former part of this work, that the
mansion does not possess much exterior magnificence,

but

but in the intended alterations and additions this will be considerably improved; however the site is not commanding, but the demesne has numerous elevated spots, most happily situated for building. The gardens are extensive, and extremely well attended to; the parks are capitally reclaimed, covered with a beautiful verdure, and occupied by the finest herds of black cattle, for which these fertile lawns are so celebrated. The beautiful irregularity of the ground has the finest effect in these improvements, and every hill ascended presents a new and extensive variety of interesting scenery.

At a considerable distance from the mansion, but within the demesne, are the lofty woods of Killy, whose shores are washed by the extensive waters of Lough Oughter, and furnish the highest contour to the surrounding scenery.

The many beautiful islands, encircled by this charming lake, are crowned with the finest timber, which their undulating surface presents to view in a variety of shades, and their deep recesses and romantic scenery strongly picture to the mind the aptitude of these sequestered islands for the superstitious rites, which formerly were celebrated here; one of these islands, named Cloghether, was the prison of the venerable and excellent Bishop Bedel, when he was in the hands of the insurgents, in the rebellion of 1641, and whose

death

death was occasioned by the severities he received, and the misery of the times; he lies buried in the corner of the church-yard at Kilmore.

The improvements of Farnham still rapidly are continued, and the new approach from the town of Cavan is not the least considerable.

Nor are those advancements, which reflect such honor on the munificent benefactors, neglected; nor in the disbursements of a princely fortune are the rising generation forgotten, twenty-five girls being well clothed and educated by the Countess of Farnham, and taught such useful works, as will insure to them a maintenance. In the manufacture of straw hats they have made a great proficiency, and receive a considerable emolument by their own industry. Contiguous to this school, Lord Farnham is erecting one on a similar plan for thirty boys, who will be also clothed, educated, and taught useful trades. These are solid improvements, which, if more attended to by our gentry, would at once yield the happiest consequences and the most grateful sensations: these will eminently bear the test of approbation, and unquestionably insure the approbation of Heaven.

The antique buildings of this barony have little to recommend them; at Urney, near Cavan, are the walls of a monastery, and at Drumbane church, which

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

which is very large, is a circular tower, but low; about two miles from Belturbet are the venerable ruins of an abbey, and those of a castle are in the same neighbourhood.

CHAR.

CHAP. VIII.

BARONY OF TULLAGHONOHÓ.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THE ground is still mostly cultivated with the spade; their crops, two years potatoes, next flax, and oats for two or three years successively; in a poor soil this must naturally be exhausting, and very bad management, as they are obliged to leave their ground a season idle under cashier fallow.

Killeshandra is their market town; the one-third of the farm is generally in grass; they never plough more than once, and all the rest of the labour is done with the spade. Here there is no market for grain, since the distilleries were prohibited by government, but formerly a considerable quantity of barley was sold, for which they have a nice soil in many parts, if it was well managed. They breed but very few horses here, and less of black cattle; tillage is their principal pursuit.

fish, and they cultivate now no more provisions than they require for themselves; their great concern is flax husbandry, and the linen manufacture.

BURNING GROUND.

This operation seems but little understood, though so generally practised, and may be justly compared to a specifick, a due proportion of which is a powerful remedy for a disorder, but, if improvidently applied, may be of considerably greater detriment than any good, which could be derived from it. We may naturally suppose, that the ashes, which were swept from the hearth, created in the mind of man the first ideas of these revigorating powers to the soil, from the supererogation of that spot, on which chance had scattered them, and taught him to seek a sufficient supply for his exhausted lands in the exuberances of mounds and weeds, which they furnished. The grateful return, from this treatment induced him to try the experiment still further, by burning the entire surface; nor were his most sanguine expectations disappointed in the effects they produced; but here was the mistake, for overcharged nature yielded too much, and required means, he was not yet acquainted with, to restore her relaxed powers for this immoderate burning consumer.

the

the sulphurs, which are the powers of the earth, although it may unlock the vegetable salts, that were bound up in the tough clod; nothing but sulphureous manures will tend to restore these powers, even so but very gradually, and it is for want of these composts the natural grasses do not spring for many years after. When ground is to be burnt, it should be done so in small heaps, so that its sulphurs may be secured; if light and calcareous earth, let it burn very leisurely, and such will give a very grateful crop of barley, and it should be burnt in the spring season; the very reverse is to be observed in a strong gravelly soil, which should have a hot fire, that the gravel and stones may yield; as they are highly impregnated with salts, which they are required to discharge into the soil; by this operation, such land is excellent for oats, but the principal matter to be considered in burning should be our bogs, which so long have been neglected, and with but small expense, which is soon repaid, become the surest and the best land our island can boast of.

The first step towards their reclamation doubtless is draining, as the outfalls are choked, which restrain that body of water, on which they float; a main cut to carry off this water is the necessary preliminary, and by intersections leading into it the material expense and grand object is attained; for they quickly consolidate and become firm ground, which is easily brought

brought into action; for by various experiments and analizations it has been proved, that the principal matter, of which they are composed, are decayed ligneous particles, which are hastening again to earth, the ultimate change of all matter.

It is a received opinion, that bogs were formed by forests, which grew in a morass, and were sunk and covered by their own weight; thus, as they very gradually decayed, they vegetated new earth, which possesses a very considerable portion of salts; and it is easily accounted for in chemistry, that their inflammability is not lost, but rather increased by their soaking in water; the decay of these ligneous particles must therefore be very slow, and may be rather said to be a change to their present pulpy state.

The ashes of bog must therefore contain a considerable quantity of salts, which cause a quick fermentation when applied to land, and afford a large supply of food or nourishment for plants, and here is their excellence, applied as a manure for a different soil: in surface dressings, they draw the native salts from below, which the glutinous properties of the roots of grass have repelled, and thus is produced the fermentation, which revigorates them. The atmosphere, as well as the dung of animals, which graze on land, furnishes this glutinous substance, which shuts up the soil, and hence land becomes hide-bound, and requires to be broken.

But not only as a manure for another soil, but on bog itself turf-ashes are the highest preparation for vegetation on its own surface, and it only requires an attention to draining, and the application of calcareous substances to render it fit for every branch of husbandry, as daily experiments have so clearly evinced.

That turf is evidently engaged in active vegetation cannot be denied, as numerous instances are in every country of bogs affording new fuel, which have long ago been cut out; the antiseptic quality of bog is easily accounted for by the quantity of timber it contains; it is this, which prevents the water from putrefying, which is shut up within it, and cannot be changed; else, were a running stream passing through it, it would quickly rot, and be converted into earth; therefore we must suppose that in early ages, before these forests had fallen, the vicinity of morasses, which now are bogs, were as remarkable for their unwholesome damps and fogs, not having yet received the astringent principle, which the timber conveys, as they are at present for their salubrity, which is occasioned by their possessing that principle imparted by the trees, which they cover; and this may account, why this island was so poorly inhabited, and so overrun with immense forests.

The application of lime on bog reduces that acid, which will not yield to putrefaction, and consolidates the mass of matter so as to prepare it for the purposes of tillage. In laying on this correcting manure, it has
been

been found to answer the purpose best, when the bog had been gradually and not too quickly dried; for if too dry, it for a long time resists moisture, but spread hot lime on bog, that possesses a due degree of moisture, and admit water or rain, and the latter searches every pore of it, by which the antiseptic and astringent principle is destroyed, which is so foreign to vegetation.

The power of lime on bog is unquestionably of great moment and rapid effect, but the very best reclaimed bogs I have seen had no quick lime, but were brought to yield the sweetest herbage from the following process:—After sufficiently draining the proposed tract, it was skinned and burnt in small heaps; a very strong calcareous limestone gravel of a whitish clayey substance was drawn in, and spread on in frosty weather; this season was chosen, as the bog being at that time accessible to cattle. This manure being ploughed in, a crop of turnips was sown in July, and in October rye grass was scattered in, and bush-harrowed. The turnips are well worth four pounds per acre, and the rye grass yielded a fine crop of hay, the seeds of which were worth three pounds per acre. This mode persevered in for three or four seasons, always graveling in each season, and well ploughing in the large limestone, it was then laid down in meadow, and has since continued to give the most luxuriant herbage, yielding white clover and trefoil naturally, and in great abundance. In this case the calcareous quality of the lime-

stone gravel had the same effects as the lime itself, but is more durable in effect, for after this process it will not revert to its original aqueous herbage, which will soon appear, after the virtues of quick lime are exhausted; and thus we see it is the calcareous matter, which consolidates the bog, and gives it a gravity fit to sustain the roots of plants.

This density is highly assisted by the weight of the gravel, which remains, and more gradually imparts the limy quality it possesses; besides, by the original mode of treatment of burning, if even it should again require it; the quantity of gravel in its bosom insures the greatest effect, and places it in the highest possible state of vegetation.

The effects of burning land were not well understood, when the legislature imposed the heavy penalty against this process, and it would be unwise yet to repeal that law; doubtless, much mischief might accrue and has occurred, when adopted by ignorant or mercenary tenants. The very rapid strides to perfection in agriculture, which are now making, will, of course, point out in due time an emendation for this law.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

The nature of the pasture of this district is very kind, and more inclined to herbage; a considerable quantity might be turned to sound sheep-walk.

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The breed of cattle excels many parts of the county, as much of this barony is well inhabited by a resident gentry; amongst the better kind of cattle, that are seen here, the improved breed of Farnham are easily discoverable; the milch cows are only housed in winter, from November to May.

In hay-making they are not so tardy as in Lough tee, but yet leave all their hay in the field too long; their meadow crops, particularly in demesnes, are heavy and luxuriant. The other matters of investigation under this head are very similar to those in the preceding chapter.

FENCING.

A principal concern, which is too much neglected, and ought to be a primary one, is the making of good fences, the want of which is a great loss, inconvenience, and source of ill will amongst the farmers of this country; it is indeed a leading step to improvement in agriculture, and ought by all possible means to be encouraged; nor could a farming society find a fitter object for their most liberal rewards.

In stony grounds a ready material for inclosures is afforded, and a double purpose answered of clearing the ground, and making the fence; this mode of inclosure is the most rapid, and by which the object is soon

attained, but it is a bleak defence without either beauty or shelter; at leisure hours it is easy to construct without it a ditch and hedge, to which it will be a security from cattle, and when this latter comes to perfection, these stones will be found useful in making drains, building, &c.

Our island is favoured with a fertile soil, and very well adapted to the growth of trees; how small is the expense for the comparative benefits of planting quicks in our hedge-rows, which give so improved an appearance to the country, and afford so necessary a shade and shelter for our flocks and herds? If we look to the sister country, we find that there hedges are planted for fuel, which our bogs so amply supply. The numerous advantages we possess ought to stimulate us to arrive at perfection, but unfortunately they create a supineness and indifference.

In inclosing bog a twofold object is obtained; the defence from cattle is the drain for the water to flow off; this soil is so easily worked, that the expense of a double drain is not considerable, and is well repaid by the bank, which is inclosed within these two drains, and thus capitally secured from cattle, and would be very proper to plant with timber trees, and to quick at both sides: a valuable improvement is thus made, and the shelter obtained for the inclosure.

Quicks will thrive in any soil, but require hoeing and weeding for a year or two. Attend well to fences

of profit, and they will soon become fences of pleasure; but for a little be careful, and tire not in preserving them from cattle, and they will soon repay your labour.

The best method of insuring the planting of hedges would be for the landlord to plant them himself, and bind the tenant to pay interest for the money expended, and to keep them in good and constant repair; nothing would more promote the landlord's interest, when leases expire, or more rapidly tend to further civilization, which such improvements so eagerly invite.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

The farms here are smaller than in Lough tee; twenty acres is here esteemed a very large one, and but few grazing farms, and those in the occupation of a wealthy gentry. The smaller farms are divided into plots of three, five, and ten acres.

The farmers houses are not so poor, and in the villages are remarkably neat. The tenures are held in the manner already described, and to each of them is a freehold, fondly sought for. Their inclosures are poor, and fences but bad indeed; I do not speak of demesne ground, for in such places they are particularly well kept. Manures are dung, clay, and bog-stuff, and occasionally lime, which they have in partial spots.

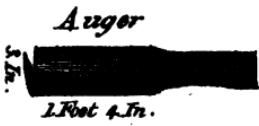
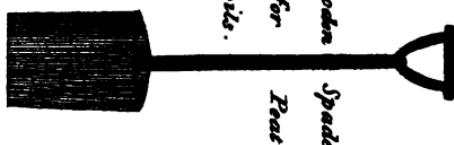
DRAINING.

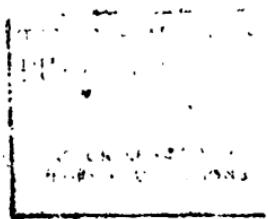
Draining is an art in husbandry, the knowledge of which is of the first importance, and deserves the minutest enquiry, as the wetness of lands, which perishes the crops, will be thereby remedied. The causes of this partial subjection of land to water are numerous, but principally will be found to proceed from springs flowing over the soil, or confined under it, by reason of its own tenacity, which represses it, or by various other causes.

Water, which lies on the surface and proceeds from rains, is easily diverted off, by sinking drains according to the fall of the ground; but the grand method of arriving at springs has been lately discovered by the ingenious Mr. Elkington, for which the parliament of Great Britain have rewarded him with a grant of one thousand pounds, and this has been effectually accomplished by the auger, or tapping and boring the earth, until the spring is reached, so that the water flows through this passage. This simple instrument resembles the borer used by miners, or to bring it home to the familiar ideas of every body, the auger of a pump-borer; the annexed plate will represent it both screwed together, and in joints of about four feet each; it is thus

divided

ELKINGTON'S
BORER.





divided for the convenience of carriage, and it can be added to, for any acquired length; the lower joint is constructed like the bottom of the auger, and is hollowed for about sixteen inches; these rods are three inches or three and a-half in diameter. As a substitute for the auger or lower rod, a chisel and a punch are occasionally screwed on, when the soil is gravelly or hard, which would refuse the auger. At the joints it is necessary to leave it a little stouter than in the general size of the rods, which are screwed together by two iron keys and a wooden handle passing through the eye of the topmost joint for turning the auger, which has two iron wedges to fasten it, and make it work steady. I am thus minute in the description, that any person may have it made at home, who may choose to try its effects.

A drain is always cut for the water to flow off, before the auger is used, and it is in the bottom of this drain, at occasional distances, that its operations are commenced; when the spring is arrived at, the water rises with velocity, and is thus diverted off in the drain.

In working this instrument two men are sufficient to turn it, and stand on the bank over the drain; it is necessary to have a third below in the drain, to help to lift it up, and clean out the earth from the hollow of the auger, as it may require it, which will be as often as the hollow fills; or else, the clay they perforate will be

be firmly affixed as it rises, and greatly obstruct their pulling it up again.

A scoop is also used or hollow spade, for throwing the earth up from the trench.

This mode of draining will effectually dry the greatest extent of land, on which it is practised, and only requires the experiment to be made, to insure its general approbation; I have seen it tried in several parts of Ireland, and always with success.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

Population is yet very considerable, and the linen manufacture more engaged in, and much encouraged by the market at Killeshandra, where coarse linens are purchased every week to the average value of £.1500. The appearance of this town is engaging, being neat and clean, and industry and its rewards are very conspicuous, every thing appears comfortable; a good market-house, and a brisk trade.

Immediately contiguous to the town is Castle Hamilton, the seat of Colonel Southwell; the whole demesne is beautifully wooded and watered, though much timber has been lately cut. The mansion is newly built and spacious.

In

In this neighbourhood are quarries both of lime and freestone, and strong indications of coal.

The land around is dry, and very good, but the rushes not yet banished from any part of the county I have seen

The river of Croghan, which flows through the magnificent lakes of Killeshandra, winds through a beautiful part of country, and discharges its waters with those of the lakes into the Erne river, which passes through this barony, and thence into Lough Erne. The lakes of Killeshandra, and those connected with them, cover so great an extent as are many miles in circumference; these are already described with Lough-Oughter in the preceding chapter, and are all the same expansion of water, unrivalled in beauty, extent, and true natural advantages. The mountain of Bruce-hill is a leading and prominent feature in the southern extremity, and is seen at a considerable distance. The county in its environs is mountainous, but this hill overtops them all in proud preeminence, and from its summit is commanded the most extensive prospect.

Cor-hill is a very steep mountain, not far distant from Killeshandra, beyond which the land is more wet and uncultivated, yet naturally fertile, and on the summit of this hill is a tract of reclaimed sheep-walk, and a great scope more is in forwardness. This spirited undertaking has well repaid Mr. Harkness the proprietor.

tor, who has inclosed it with excellent fences. Arvagh village is but inconsiderable, and the point of junction with the counties of Leitrim and Longford; contiguous to it is the famous lake of Seraba, which is one of the sources of Lough Erne.

The lower lands of this barony are extremely well cultivated, and possess a generous and grateful soil. Lifmore, the seat of Colonel Nesbitt, appears to be excellent land, and is celebrated as being one of the earliest reclaimed seats in Cavan, which its antique appearance and disposition of its improvements favour much: it is situated at the entrance of the village of Crossdony, which is conspicuous for an air of neatness and comfort, so unusually seen in an Irish village. The well dressed little gardens attached to the cottages, which are kindly presented to view, and the thriving plantations, make it extremely engaging; from hence to Farnham, about three miles, the face of the county is entirely changed, and is certainly, for that extent, the best improved and the neatest part of Cavan: it is but a continuation of demesne ground, and comprises the seats of Mr. Story, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Fleming, and the Bishop of Kilmore, whose improvements are only divided by the road. Through this extent, which has no resemblance to the present appearance of the country, there is a luxuriance of ornamental plantation, and engaging scenery; the land is rendered

dered excellent for any husbandry, and possesses much found sheep-walk; indeed all around Killehandra, and for many miles further is valuable land.

Mr. Pallas, of Kileogy, and Mr. Crawford, of Scraba, have good bleach-greens in this barony.

CHAPTER

C H A P. IX.

BARONY OF TULLAGHA.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony, which is the most northerly of Cavan, differs extremely from the features of the rest of the county, and more resembles those of Leitrim or Fermanagh. A reference to the map of Ulster will shew it more properly belongs to Leitrim; its soil, surface, and the general observations relating to it, will be found in the preceding part of this work, under the head of *Mountains*, in the first chapter.

They only cultivate oats and potatoes, and all their tillage is done with manual labour, which is effected with the long loy, or curved narrow spade, an excellent implement for stony ground.

In agriculture they are extremely deficient, and were it not for Mr. Griffon's improvements, which are well executed, this part of the country would shew little emanation from its rude and primeval state of nature.

Descending

Descending towards Ballyconnell, the prospect improves, where Mr. Sneyd's plantations, at Brownboy, give the country a warmer and more comfortable appearance, but the roads in this country are terribly bad indeed.

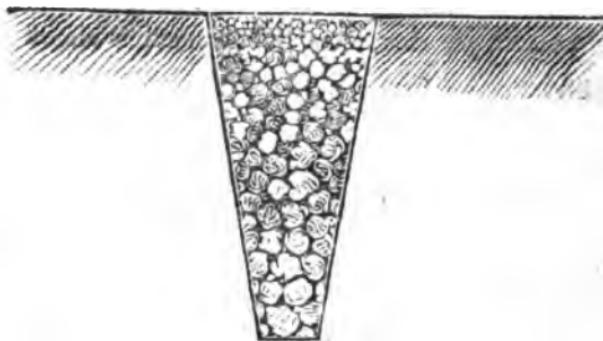
I know but of one, which is tolerable, from Belurbet to Swanlingbar through Derryolim, which is a very poor stage; that from Ballyconnell is almost impassable.

HOLLOW DRAINS.

The soil of this country seems to require surface-draining more particularly, and these trenches to be at very short distances asunder, for which purpose, it would be adviseable they should be hollow and covered at top. These drains answer every purpose, and are equal to bear any weight of cattle, when judiciously made.

After cutting the drain two feet or two and a half feet deep, which slopes in towards the bottom two-thirds of the breadth at top, that is, from eighteen inches above to six below, fill it with large stones, which are here in abundance; procure them so large, that you must force and mallet them into the drain, or large round paving stones, which are covered with smaller

smaller stones, to bring a level face; then lay brushwood and furze to bear up the clay from filling the spaces between the stones; throw in the clay and sod it. The annexed draft of a hollow drain will at once explain it.



This is a very good mode of surface-draining, and the expense very trifling; here materials are in abundance.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

A coarse spiry grass, and considerable quantities of rushes still shew on a light loam, covering a stiff clay. The cattle are of a hardy breed, but very coarse, and shelter must be first obtained, before much improvement can be expected. They never house but the milch cattle, and their hay is very strong, coarse, and

and full of a poor aqueous herbage, which so greatly impoverishes their milk; as for artificial grasses they have none, scarcely clover is to be found amongst them, and all their commodities for sale are so very trifling, as not to afford the least encouragement for a market.

If a sufficiency of provision for their family consumption is raised, a very little abundance will discharge their rents, which are very low.

LIME.

The manure, which contains the most active salts in vegetation, is limestone, and the most difficult to be searched; for its virtues only can be extracted by fire, or loosened, so that the admission of air when calcined will pulverize it, and break it to pieces; or this is more rapidly effected by water, which drives it down very quickly, searching every pore of the earth, on which it is laid.

The manner of burning lime is too generally known to require description, but the quality of the stone to be chosen for that purpose requires attention.

The best stone in Ulster (than which there cannot be better) is very white, and rises in rugged blocks; it is frequently found in boulders, or in single blocks apart from the quarry. This kind will not leave the least particle of clinker, if judiciously burnt, and is

very

very quickly calcined; its efficacy is most rapid and durable. Limestone has various other colours; the blue comes next in quality, which is the best when under ground; the grey is more apt to have spar, and burn in clinkers, and the red is the weakest and poorest of all.

The salts contained in this mineral are not destroyed or exhausted by the fire, but only exposed and unbound; it is therefore necessary to burn it thoroughly for manure, as the salts are by that means entirely laid open.

All soils will be improved by lime, even shallow and limestone soils, if the first heat subsides before it is applied, and mixed with clay or bog-stuff; but to apply it hot from the kiln before it is slaked, or previously made into a compost with earth, it is highly detrimental, and will burn the plants instead of nourishing them.

After spreading the lime on ploughed ground, let it have the benefit of rain to separate it well, and then plough it in evenly, and harrow it sharply, previous to winter: thus it is prepared for a spring crop; but barley cannot be ventured for a year or two; it may chance to thrive, but there are many chances against it.

Its virtues on bog are most rapid, destroying that astringent principle, which is hostile to vegetation, and condensing the bog; it thus becomes prepared to hold

as well as nourish the roots of plants, and gradually throws up the sweetest herbage.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

The extensive tracts of mountain are not allotted into farms, and rather an imaginary line is the division of property, than any real boundary; nor is there much attention to such land, when the average rent scarcely exceeds three pence per acre, but it is always set in a bulk rent. These tracts are only occupied in grazing store cattle in the driest season, which hardly is fit for this purpose four months in the year, and the prices of grass vary from two to four shillings a head per season; younger cattle than those of three years old would actually starve, so coarse and poor is the pasture in its present natural state; and it must be conceived how little value can be in such a pasture, when the sum charged for the grass of cattle is scarcely sufficient to pay the herds attending them, who are answerable for them; as in the many deep swamps, which these mountains contain, it frequently happens, that cattle fall in and inevitably perish. In the lower regions there is little comfort in the exterior view of their cabins, which are by no means bettered within; yet it is not poverty, that occasions this dreary prof-

peft, for the peasantry, though poor in appearance, are not without means and capability, but they have no inducement to improve, and they have yet sources of wealth in their own industry, were their landlords emulous in promoting their civilization, or active in instructing them in useful and desirable pursuits.

Nor is it a secondary, but indeed a leading and primary cause for this neglect, that such extensive tracts of country are church-lands, or other establishments, which are held after the like tenure.

The laws, which were made for this purpose, had solely in view the interests of the church, without any regard to the reclaiming the face of the country, or the civilization of the people, which only can be effected by encouraging and unrestricted tenures; such laws were enacted in times of feudal barbarity, and have too long existed, nor do I hesitate to assert, that they at this day stand as a total eclipse between the country and that wealth, which is its natural right, and which an improved agriculture would doubtless afford. On such lands we find no proper mode of culture, and the inhabitants are strangely oppressed, as well with poverty, as with ignorance, as if civilization was crushed within the deadly grasp of this shameful and impolitic monopoly.

This in a peculiar manner applies to the extensive wilds of Kinawly parish in this county, and to the neighbouring counties of Fermanagh and Monaghan and,

land, in a great degree, to those parts of Ulster, which are under the influence of this malignant and oppressive system. I wish not to restrain the rights or clip the revenues of the church, I would more willingly increase them; it could be done by ameliorating the laws, which are hostile to improvement, nor would I encroach on the establishments, which were founded for education, it is notorious they are shamefully perverted; and were they duly guarded and husbanded with economy, they could be extended to a great national account; though individual benefit has hitherto been considered before the public weal, and barefaced monopoly, which is now upheld with general indignation, has too long triumphed over the rights of this country, yet they must soon give place to the proud spirit of improvement, which happily is disseminated thro' the nation, and will ultimately prevail against the host of evils, which have opposed its progress.

HOGS.

The proper management of these animals is little known in Ireland, and the very great profit, which accrues from a careful attention to them, ought to be considered by the judicious farmer. This profit depends very much on their being turned out to green food, which few of us have any idea of.

The dairy offal and the refuse of the potatoes, which sustain the sow during her nursing, should certainly be used to wean the young pigs, and they will require this kind of nourishment for some time, but when arrived to a little hardihood, they should be allowed to graze, and clover is known to agree extremely well with them; to this grass they should be confined, nor get any other food until they are full grown, which it rapidly promotes; for it insures size, and some pigs will even grow fat on it. The clover season comes in early, and will hold till the beginning of December; if in the neighbourhood of oak woods, acorns will complete their fattening, and give their flesh a great degree of firmness; but potatoes ought again to be used, when acorns are not to be had, and at this season are very cheap. Pease or corn will give a delicate flavour to bacon, and a small proportion ought to be given to hogs during the last month of their fattening.

Thus it appears from this mode, that the offal only is the support of the hog in the spring and winter; and in summer, when provisions are dear, they are fed on clover: a small plot of this grass will supply food for a considerably longer time than, if let to range at large over the field; this might be done by folding them on the plot, if feeding them within is not convenient; for by changing to a new spot, the part eaten down soon recovers and sprouts again, and the plot is well manured. The necessary crops for the uses of a

dairy

dairy are too little considered, and the profits of this husbandry will be great indeed: where milch cows are, there ought to be a due proportion of breeding sows; no management will pay better than this, and the choice and proportions of crops for the collateral purposes of the dairy are, indeed, of considerable import to agriculture, and are too little understood.

A different management is doubtless wanted, as this animal could be turned to much greater profit than we have yet experienced; and it is a matter of no small moment, that on the hog depend, in a great manner, the prices of provisions, which it materially affects.

Nor in their early stages of weaning ought the carrot be refused them, which, with good culture, will yield very great crops, and give strength and vigour to the hog, and ought to be again resorted to after the green food is consumed, as quickly affording firmness to the flesh.

In their confinement in the sty they should be kept dry, and their straw often changed, as this animal is naturally cleanly; and a yard of very small dimensions should be inclosed for them to feed in.

When at green food they will require water in the field, which ought to be attended to.

On the improvement of the agriculture of the nation a good deal is connected with this animal; with the prices of provisions they are inseparably connected, and it is to be regretted, that their flesh, which pos-

sesses

fesses so much nourishment, as entitles them to be called the natural food of the laborious peasant, should now be scarcely even enjoyed by the poor cottager, when in times of less civilization, and before improvement had lifted its head from the chains of ignorance, the peasant enjoyed his cow, his sheep, and his pig, and though they shared the shelter of his hovel, yet they afforded him food and rayment, which he no longer can boast of.

To what purpose then is the face of a country to be changed to gay and improved scenes; if the peasant, on whom its durability depends, is gradually enervated not by luxury, but by keen poverty, and too often by savage oppression?—What does it avail, if the proud lord of extensive domains shall raise neat slated cottages on the ruins of the squalid hut, if he does not take care to ameliorate the condition of the peasant, who cannot warm the walls of his ill found habitation, whose interior but ill agrees with the outer view?

That there are such scenes cannot be denied, and surely they ought to be reformed; then indeed would the improvements of agriculture, and the ornaments of a country, be pursued on a durable and efficient foundation; then would the causes of too just complaint be removed, and content and competence again prevail.

Happy cottagers, whose comforts are the care of a humane master, who directs his improvements to the bettering the condition of his tenants, and in the teaching

ing of those arts in husbandry, which he shall allow them to feel the good effects of in their own domestic concerns: thus, he not only indulges the finest feelings of man, in affording happiness to his fellow creature, but it ultimately will be found the truest and surest policy.

Improvement is as yet but in its infancy in this country, but fortunately there are here men of worth and judgment, and who have as near at heart as they possess means to effect so desirable a change, which gives us the best hopes to expect a speedy amelioration of the condition of the peasantry, as well as a total change in their wretched system of husbandry.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

The population rates here but thinly, so extensive are the wilds; the peasants are hardy and industrious, yet much depressed for want of encouragement; the women spin a good deal of wool as well as flax; frizes for home use are made here, but every thing is on a very narrow and contracted scale, and confined to individual account.

Ballyconnell is a small town, which has a weekly market, and here is a good flour-mill, Mr. Faris the proprietor, and Mr. Benison has an excellent bleach-

green

green in this neighbourhood. In the mountain of Slieve-Russell coal is found, and generally dug out of the side of the hill in blocks near the surface. How these have been separated from the vein may employ the enquiry of the natural philosopher, but no attention to so valuable a concern has yet actuated the proprietors, on whose estates this mineral is found in such abundance, and so easily raised. This coal has formerly been brought to Ballyhayes, to Cavan, and to the great iron works at Arigna, in the county of Leitrim, which are contiguous.

Of Swanlingbar and its relatives a full account has already been given in the fourth section of the first chapter of this work, under the head of Mountains; it is to be regretted, that the ravages of the fire, which happened in the village above fifteen years ago, have not yet been repaired, in which twenty-two houses were destroyed. A great deal of harmony and sociability prevails in this retired watering place.

The celebrated spa is in an ornamented inclosure, which is very handsomely improved with pleasant walks and neat plantations. The breakfast room is contiguous to the well, and here the company generally partake of this sociable meal, at the same table drink the waters, and ride or walk till dinner, when an excellent ordinary is provided.

On the mountains adjoining is an ample field for the enquiries of the natural philosopher, and abounds with

with minerals, as I have already explained; several caves are on those hills doubtless excavated by the hand of nature, though some of them shew appearances of art in their formation.

The general quality of the town-lands is a rushy and spongy pasture, with a light loam over a stiff clay; here the farms are smaller, and the pasture is favourable to dairy, from whence some butter, but in no great quantity, is sent to market.

The men are principally employed in husbandry, though some few manufacture linens; the women and children spin both yarn and wool. Their markets are distant and discouraging; labour may average seven pence per day through the year, but they have every thing cheap, provisions in abundance, and turf quite convenient, and only for the cost of rearing. Clothing is mostly furnished at home, so that their expenditure is trifling, if their incomes are small. In fact, they rely on themselves chiefly for their necessaries, and are in a great degree independent, and confined to their own peculiar concerns; few are without a cow, and the greater proportion have two or three.

Their currency is principally in specie, and their rents are always paid in cash.

There is no established fishery, though there are claimants for the fish of the lakes flowing into Lough Erne, on which they have erected eel weirs.

The

The roads are few, and miserably bad; a particular attention is requisite here; much depends on good roads, towards forwarding the improvements of agriculture.

The plantations are but few; Mr. Sneyd's, of Bawnboy, are contiguous to the small village of the same name, rank foremost amongst those, and his demesne shews a judicious management. Timber is dear and scarce through this district, yet the soil very favourable for plantation; from Lough Fena, in the county of Leitrim, flows the river of Woodford through this barony, and skirting the county on Fermanagh side it is discharged into Lough Erne. The small villages of Woodford and Ballymagowran are situate on this stream. On the whole, the country is rich in minerals, and possesses every material, as well as a hardy and industrious peasantry, to bring it to a better state; its defects are such as can be removed, and the greatest difficulty, which oppresses it, proceeds from the neglect of its proprietors, and the want of due encouragement, which is strongly pictured in the most considerable tracts of this extensive barony. I have been favoured with some very judicious information from the Rev. Mr. John Jebb, of Swanlingbar, which came too late to be inserted in the description of the mountainous district in the first chapter: but as that region is entirely within this barony, I shall beg

beg leave to mention them here, and have taken the liberty to select from these very general remarks, which that gentleman has so kindly communicated, those subjects, which either I have not before touched on, or which may have been the result of observation since I have been in his neighbourhood.

He acquaints me, that the spirit for reclaiming their lands is strikingly manifest amongst the lower orders, and that, though prior to the last season oats was the general grain, yet they have now been induced to till wheat by their vicinity to the flour-mills at Ballyconnell and Belturbet, where their soil was sufficiently weighty after a potatoe crop, an experiment which was now first attempted in this district. I should do injustice to Mr. Jebb's very intelligent remarks and pleasing style, were I to curtail any thing new, as some of his arguments agree with those, which I have before touched on. I shall willingly repeat his opinions, as a confirmation of these I have ventured to offer, which thus proceed :

“ The crops produced have been remarkably fine, and it is hoped the sowing of wheat may gradually extend. Here, as probably in other places, the last two years scarcity has had a most happy effect. Industry and foresight, and a spirit of improvement are manifestly increasing; spots formerly suffered to remain in a state of wild and barren nature, have been profusely manured

manured with burnt ashes, and have yielded an abundant supply of excellent potatoes: it may reasonably be expected, that the people feeling the advantage of the extraordinary labour, to which they were incited by the fear of dearth, may be induced to persevere from the hope of comfort. The habits of economy too, in the use of provisions, which have been taught by adversity, will not, perhaps, be relinquished in the hour of plenty; that gracious providence, which out of evil can elicit good, may have been pleased to make temporary want the source of permanent abundance.

" The great impediment to improvement is want of capital, to drain and clear our grounds; resident gentry or substantial farmers we have none*. To agricultural experiments no encouragement is afforded by absentee proprietors, and the poverty of our peasantry disables them from engaging in any plan, which does not promise an immediate return. If landlords were to propose a liberal bounty to their tenantry for draining and clearing their ground, in a few years they would be amply reimbursed. This work once effected, improvement would be most rapid; for the means of improvement are within our reach, to be applied with little trouble, and at little expence. Every species

* Here Mr. Jebb doubtless forgot his friend Mr. Grifson, who is indeed the only exception to the remark.

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

141

species of manure, appropriate to an inland country, exists here in great plenty: there are especially vast quantities of limestone gravel, and rotten limestone slate, and shale is perhaps more frequently to be met with here, than in most parts of the county.

"With want of industry the people cannot justly be charged, their exertions are spontaneous, and almost instinctive; without experiencing that assistance and encouragement from their superiors, which the peasantry enjoy in more favoured situations, they are constantly employed, the men in agriculture, the women and children in spinning; some there are who weave, and sell the productions of their looms at Enniskillen and other neighbouring markets, but in this branch not much progress has been made for want of proper encouragement.

"In the situation of our poor, the most unfavourable circumstances, which present themselves, are the wretchedness of their hovels, and want of cleanliness in their mode of living; in these respects, however, they are by no means sunk so low as the southern parts of Ireland, and within these few years an attention to comforts, and a spirit of neatness have been visibly gaining ground. An anxiety for education and for religious instruction happily prevails. Few even of the poorest are without a wish to send their children to school, and during more than two years, that I have had the care of this parish, the demand for prayer books, testaments,

testaments, and bibles, sold at the prices of the association for promoting the knowledge and practice of the Christian religion, has been very considerable. At church there is always a most regular, decent, and attentive congregation of the lower orders, and amongst the Roman Catholics purchasers have been found for the new testament; proper school houses and qualified teachers are great *desiderata*. This deficiency will, it is hoped, be in some measure obviated by the erection of a building in the neighbourhood of the town, which shall at once serve as a residence for the master, and a school-house for the children. By a charity sermon and by private subscriptions, sixty pounds have been already raised for this purpose, and it is expected, that in a very short time that sum will be sufficiently increased to authorize the commencement of the undertaking. This circumstance is mentioned, both as it is materially connected with the state of education in this parish, and because it shews what may be effected in other places, by an inconsiderable degree of exertion; at first view few situations in Ireland could afford less prospect of success to a plan of this nature, than the town and neighbourhood of Swanlinbar."

Mr. Jebb, after describing that chain of mountains stretching towards Lough Allen and Boyle, which I have already spoken of, and which he observes is not only unproductive of positive good in the present state, but has been the source of much real evil, very strongly proves the necessity and policy of

of building stone houses, and intersecting the mountain with roads, for the reasons I have before offered in the fourth section of the first chapter; and he explains that, as the adoption of this plan would conduce to the peace of the country, it would be more extensively advantageous, for, says he,

" Amidst those mountains there are numerous and extensive vallies, which only require the hand of cultivation to bring them into fertility and beauty: even the bleakest parts abound with hidden sources of wealth, which time and labour would inevitably discover, and apply to the promotion of the public good. The nitrous, sulphureous, and chalybeate springs, which every where arrest the attention of the observer, abundantly evince, that those mountains are full of valuable mineral productions, and the existence of considerable iron works here, early in the last century, proves what may be effected, if ever the cultivation of our internal resources, and the extension of inland navigation supply us with proper fuel for the fusion of iron ore. Of this now neglected district the importance will be indefinitely increased, when the long projected junction of Lough Erne with the sea, by a cut from Belleek to Ballyshannon, takes place; and when the proposed opening from Lough Erne to the Shannon is effected by inland navigation, and the Leitrim lakes; then we shall have a communication with the Atlantic, both in the north and southwest, and then we shall enjoy a safe and easy intercourse with the principal

principal parts of Ireland. Would it not be the part of a wise and enlightened policy, to prepare for the full participation of those great advantages, by opening our mountains, by giving every encouragement to agriculture, and thus at once gaining wealth and population sufficient to reap the benefits of foreign and domestic commerce?—Surely, when we consider the important change it may effect in the condition of this country, we cannot but feel anxious, that the proprietors of estates should, in this particular, sufficiently consider their own interests and the interests of the community. If they but make roads and build cotters houses, they will pave the way for a state of industry, civilization, and happiness, in a district at present un-tilled, and uninhabited, the occasional resort of plunderers and rebels: they will considerably increase their own incomes, and they will add new lands to our cultivation, new subjects to our state.

“ Should these expectations be deemed sanguine, shold it be said, that the proposed navigations may never be effected, and that, though they were effected, this country is too poor to avail itself of their assistance, yet still it must be granted, that facilitating communication by judicious roads, that civilizing the people by comfortable habitations, that producing even a moderate degree of vegetation in places now utterly unproductive, are objects worthy the attention of our great proprietors.

“ A very

"A very few words more on this subject; of late years, emigrations to America have been frequent, in this country; the motives generally assigned are want of ground, and want of encouragement to cultivate at home. The opening of our mountains, and holding out suitable inducements to our peasantry to improve them, would surely diminish the emigrating *mania*. At all events, the experiment is worth trial, every probability is in favour of its producing the desired effect; but should it even partially fail, it must unquestionably be attended with most beneficial consequences, and those, who put it in practice, cannot be deprived of the delightful and animating reflection, that they have endeavoured to advance the population and prosperity of their country."

CHAP. X.

BARONIES OF CASTLERAGHAN, CLONMOGHAN, AND
CLONCHEE.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

IT would only tend to fwell the bulk of this book, and afford but a tiresome tautology, to give a distinct and separate account of these baronies, which have so strong a similitude in every respect, that in description they should not be divided, and, with a few exceptions, have so very little to recommend them in their present state.

The general feature of this extent of country is elevated ground, very irregular in the surface, and the hills containing from twenty to above one hundred acres, with a very small space of valley intervening, and those inclosed to a good pasture; the hills are tilly, and the soil very favourable to corn, of a strong brown colour, and as it approaches to red, is of a better quality, more dry and friable; the manure of lime is

is particularly efficacious, but this is placed at a great distance, and is procured but at a considerable expense. All these lands have the rotation of potatoes, flax and oats; of the latter, two, three, or four successive crops. This is very bad management, and, of course, soon exhausts the soil, and obliges the letting it out to rest, during which period nothing is yielded but weeds and thrash, and a heavy dead rent accrued, which will ever keep the tenant in poverty. To point out the modes of redressing this grievance requires little ingenuity; an intervening green crop between corn crops is effected without any additional expense. Every man who holds a farm must have potatoes, and let him choose that spot for this crop, which has last year had corn, which can be restored this year to vigour with the dung for his potatoes, and he need never let it out to rest. Thus, it is in a greater degree the mismanagement of our crops, the selection of ground for them, and an undue course of rotation that is the evil, rather than the want of capital, which is complained of. Industry acquires capital, and mismanagement, though with ever so much industry, exhausts it.

It is true these lands are capable, by judicious manures and good farming, of yielding crops, which have never been attempted here; but in seeking the modes of attaining the requisites for such improvement, we should also take into consideration, what are the obstacles in our way, and we must also judge how far po-

litic it may be, (by introducing agriculture and the several improved branches of husbandry into this country) to adopt those modes, which might tend to divert the attention from the linen manufacture, in which it is so well established, to perhaps a neglect of that great national pursuit, and the fears of many sensible and steady men, in this particular, certainly deserve a fair and deliberate investigation.

The linen manufacture is at present more or less engaged in by every peasant in this district, and they are all as earnestly devoted to the business of the farm; though I cannot say their pursuits are in either cases crowned with success; for there is little to boast of, from their management or rural economy. Perhaps here lies the evil, that the attention of the manufacturer is not confined to his trade; the soil is doubtless very favourable to flax husbandry, which is as certainly injuriously pursued, and requires a care and knowledge in the several stages, which we are entire strangers to. This is a business to be effected in the field, and which the manufacturer ought to have nothing to do with; give him a garden for his recreation, and culinary supply, let good markets be encouraged for the sale of flax and provisions, then husbandry and trade will flourish in their proper spheres.

The evil of those very different pursuits being interwoven, was highly exemplified in latter years, when the high price of corn induced every poor man to till his

his lands, and the temptation was too great to be resisted; their manufacture was of course neglected, and suffered very severely, and their lands, which have been exhausted by repeating cropping, are now reduced to a slovenly cashier fallow.

In how many instances can we trace the characteristic of the peasantry of Ireland, and truly pronounce it fond of speculation and enterprize? Too ready to grasp at every novelty and change, it neglects that business, whose difficulties it has just surmounted, and a steady adherence to which might have insured wealth and independence.

As the peasantry of Ireland have not capital for both employments, they should be confined to one of them, and the landlord, who would resist the offer of high rents, which the manufacturer should make for his lands, would doubtless serve the nation at large, and would *ultimately* find he acted best for his own particular interest.

To confine the business of agriculture to the farmer only, would, I apprehend, strike at the root of the evil, and his judgment would lead him to cultivate flax crops, which the soil is so favourable to, and in such a country of manufacture would be always in high demand; but to expel the fears of those, who say that this crop would not be sufficiently cultivated, if out of the hands of the weaver, let the farmer be bound in his lease to occupy so much of the farm with flax, as the

the lands are at present so occupied: let farming societies give due encouragement to this husbandry, and it would soon be very superior to its present slovenly cultivation, and great depression.

But to consider, what are the most adviseable means of restoring a high and profitable mode of farming to this country, I allow it must be gradual, as, though lime will effect such a considerable change, yet the distance and bad carriage is such a draw-back on its benefits, as must preclude a general amelioration, until a navigation or some fortuitous circumstance will conquer the existing difficulty, as at present this manure is brought over the worst and steepest roads, for ten or twelve miles distant, in very small loads, flung in baskets across a horse's back, and these loads proportioned to the strength of their cattle, which is very inconsiderable.

In so irregular a surface, it may appear a monstrous absurdity to advise a navigation; yet in the windings of these valleys a ready line of canal could be chosen, to which a considerable number of supplies of water could be easily diverted. This I conceive of such importance to agriculture, that, whenever it can be effected, it ought to meet due encouragement; for it not only conveys at a cheap rate the best manures to soils, which do not naturally possess them, but it establishes the best markets, and brings their advantages home to the farmer's door, and a very considerable matter, that it

it sends so many men and horses to the business of agriculture, who have before been entirely engaged in the carriage of goods.

Thus the money, which is now sent from hence for provisions, would be kept at home, the country would amply yield a sufficiency of every crop, and trade would have a better and surer support.

In so many thousand acres now occupied by very poor weavers we rarely see better than black oats, of an impoverished grain, which are capable of yielding the finest wheat, or could certainly be converted to the best sheep-walk.

The vallies are very grassy, and have generally a light loam for a spade's depth, and a deep clay beneath; from the want of surface-draining they are now very rushy, and full of aqueous herbage, and some of them are several months of the year under water.

These lands produce a coarse meadow, and are very kind for dairy husbandry; when they are drained, they are very much improved by manuring the surface with ashes from the bog.

Their culture is with the three-horse plough, and also very considerably with the spade, as they trench their crops, which, I have said, are a rotation of potatoes, flax, and oats; except what produces milk for their own consumption, they are very little otherwise engaged in dairy husbandry.

CLAY SOILS, AND THEIR MANURES.

This description of soil, which prevails in this country, is naturally stiff, and will soon return to its binding and adhesive quality, after the best tillage, without a due recourse being had to the manures, which are necessary to bring it into a fertile and yielding state.

The best manure, which is attainable here for clay soils, is marle; this is more beneficial towards the bottom of the hills here, the higher grounds are more improved with lime. This wants some investigation, as lime tends to cake on clay, whereas marle makes it friable and tilly; but the manure best calculated for these soils is limestone gravel, as highly possessing the calcareous virtue, of which clay is deprived, and affording that matter, which is peculiarly and mechanically adapted to open the soil, as the pebbles it contains, by being well incorporated into the soil, separate the clay, and prevent it from binding again; this latter virtue it always possesses, when its calcareous powers or marly quality may be exhausted, and it must be considered, that from the close formation of the pebble, this virtue will be more durable than it is either in lime or marle; consequently it is the fittest manure

manure for their soils. As Mr. Kirwan in his valuable Essay on Manures lays down as a general maxim, that "*Manures are applied to supply either the defective ingredients of a soil, or improve its texture, or correct its vices,*" so here this is particularly verified, the texture being improved, and the natural chill of the soil corrected by limestone gravel; but as the country does not supply this manure, it cannot be used here, until a navigation will convey it; in the mean time, whatever tends to open the soil ought to be applied; gravel, lime, rubbish, or pebbles of any kind, will greatly effect it. It should be observed, that the clayey marle is the least beneficial kind for this soil; that which possesses most pebbles is the best. Marle is easily attained and raised, and where such abundance is had, the properest kind ought to be selected; if mixed with dung it becomes very powerful, and the proportion of the latter, which is happily the least attainable, requires to be many times less than the quantity of marle necessary in this compost, which will be found a very durable manure.

Paring and burning is a manure very unfit for these soils, which possess so few vegetables. I have seen a soil here totally reduced by repeated croppings, after this mode of treatment, so as not to yield grass; when the carbonaceous matter is exhausted, it will require a long time before fertility is restored. Though under the idea of burning, we suppose the soil is evaporated or wasted,

yet this is denied by the best experimental philosophers, who account thus, that a slow fire will harden and not waste it, that it affords, instead of consuming, new vegetative matter, but its principal effect is the change of the roots of plants into actual coal; with heathy soils this mode particularly agrees. As this carbonic principle or coaly matter is lost to the soil, so it becomes exhausted; for this matter is very highly contained in the dung of animals, and also in all fermenting manures, which at first sight may appear wonderful, but is certainly ascertained from their analyzation; and thus it is, that grass-lands are more in heart than arable, because they not only receive this principle from the dung of the stock, which graze thereon, and which they retain, not yielding crops to exhaust it; and as the herbage itself contains this principle least, so it yields in a lesser degree, and leaves it on the soil, which accounts for its fertility, and thus it is, says Mr. Kirwan, that "*Vegetables thrive best in the vicinity of towns, because the carbonic principle is copiously dispersed by the smoke of the various combustibles consumed in inhabited places.*"

This substance arises from putrefaction, and is consequently found in great vigour in a dunghill, and experiments have been tried, which proved that earths the most calcareous, and manures the most revigorating, when deprived of this principle by an analysis,
were

were totally barren, and on its being again restored to them recovered their fertility in a high degree.

To apply the several manures to their proper soils, is a study will be worth our enquiry, and highly pleasing in the pursuit; it enables us to disseminate the most useful knowledge, and it particularly tends to the happiness and comforts of mankind.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

In a country so engaged in tillage, and divided into such numerous small farms, little can be said of its pasture, as but a trifling proportion of it is so occupied; where the blessings of a cow are rarely enjoyed by the peasant, and a horse is equal to the work of several of those farms, there is no room for pasture, which is so poor as easily to account for the impoverished breed of cattle, that graze thereon. A patch of clover is the only grass attempted to be cultivated, and though its excellencies are evident, from the repeated crops it yields in one season, yet it is by no means sufficiently engaged in. The demand for it is certainly increasing, from the greater quantity being now sold in the neighbouring market towns, than was formerly the case.

For want of draining the pastures are overgrown with a spiry grass, which in outer appearance has no variation

variation from rushes; and as their grass lands are cold and low, so they must yield but a very poor kind of milk, which does not produce much butter; as they are not at all engaged in feeding cattle for market, so there is no produce of wool, hides, or tallow.

TILLAGE.

As our cropping exhausts the virtues of the soil, so it is in a great degree restored by tillage, that is, ploughing the ground when the proper manures are not to be obtained; and in shallow soils particular manures are as necessary after a course of crops to enrich them, as they are in a clayey soil to open and pulverize them.

Thus it is, that additional ploughing will in effect mellow and enrich the ground, and supply the place of manures, by the constant turning the soil to the influence of the sun and air; the salts of the atmosphere are greedily sucked in, in the broken state of the earth, which it has not the power to imbibe in its close state, when in vegetation particularly so, when the plant is not tap-rooted. It is now strongly asserted, and gains considerable credit from experience, that these ploughings ought to take place in spring and winter only, and a vegetable crop should be the succedaneum for a summer's fallow. The choice of this crop

crop is to be considered, and will variously apply as to the necessity for each particular kind.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

Inconsiderable as is the size of farms, yet they are miserably managed, and the houses shew as little comfort or neatness as their husbandry is wretched. Where so small a portion is under the care of one farmer, as from two to five acres, which are here the general run of plots, we must conclude that there is some hidden cause, that prevents its very rapid improvement, which it should attain almost to perfection; but the difficulty is easily solved, when we find the farmer is also a weaver, and though industrious, yet unable to follow both pursuits, for want of capital; nor is the nature of their tenures less discouraging, where many hold during pleasure only, and are liable to have their rents raised, should they venture to improve. This proceeds from neglect principally, and in a great measure from the fear of making the tenantry independent by granting leases; for so high does the spirit of electioneering prevail in this county, that it is no uncommon thing to see the landlord's interest at an election opposed by his own tenantry, which causes continual ill will, and is a great bar to improvement.

Fences

Fences are indifferently kept, scarce any quicks are planted, and a slight mound only thrown up during the growing of the corn: nor are they more attentive as to draining, which only a few gentlemen farmers have engaged in. Their manures are dung, bog-stuff, and ashes.

IRRIGATION.

This is a branch of husbandry strangely neglected in most parts of Ireland, though of unquestionable importance, and the manure it affords to grass-lands cannot be excelled by the richest covering of stable dung: this, it is said, depends very considerably on the quality of the water. It is alledged, that water at the source is purest, and that it loses its virtues as a manure in proportion to the distance from the source. It is true, that a deep river at the fountain head is little variable in temperature at all times; but when the space between the banks is of greater extent than the depth of the stream, then it is acted upon by the seasons. I confess my own inability of determining the point, whether by the remoteness from the source the land could be parched in summer by a shallow stream, or perished in winter; or whether in its passage it might imbibe noxious qualities, or be impregnated with minerals, which might be prejudicial to some soils.

soils. However, we can be at no loss to conclude, that the more saline particles which the water conveys, the greater are its virtues as a manure. It may be in some measure accounted for as beneficial to vegetation, as all plants contain a certain degree of water; the vegetable substance of herbs is more particularly composed of it, and this water is condensed, and made solid in some degree, as it loses its warmth, and is not in a liquid state; by overflowing with water, this principle is again revived.

In moss lands it has been asserted, that water is hurtful to the pasture, as it perishes the roots, and that the water of a river, which abounds with rushes and aquatic plants, is unfit for the purposes of vegetation, and it is accounted for, as the water conveys the seeds of the mosses and coarse herbage as it flows, which soon grow to that vigour as to smother the natural grass of the soil: as a remedy for this, the surface has been burnt and limed; yet it is notorious, that limed ground will quickly run to moss when let out, but by a timely attention it may be nipped in its early growth and totally destroyed. Coal-ashes will, when strewed over young moss, very quickly consume it; old land, which is hide-bound and long in grass, is apt to yield moss, but by scarifying the surface and sprinkling lime it has been successfully banished; by throwing fresh pure earth into the reservoir, from whence the water is commanded, or in the trench, which con-

veys

veys it to the meadow, the vegetative properties are highly promoted; on deep soils quick lime thrown into the stream will have a very rapid effect, and is a very cheap and certain mode of manuring*.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

The population is great in these baronies, but the villages and towns are very inconsiderable in size or wealth.

The village of Shercock is situate in the barony of Clonchee, lies high, and is but of mean appearance; it has a weekly market, in which no commodity is sold but yarn. This village is on the estate of —— Ruxton, Esq. of Ardee, in the county of Louth. The Rev. Alan Noble Adams is the only gentleman residing in this neighbourhood.

A new church has been this some time past erected here, for which a very adequate sum was granted, but it is yet unfinished; how often do we find the like instances of misapplication of money in church property, not to give it a harsher epithet?

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* For the extraordinary effects of irrigation, and times of applying this manure, see Queen's County Reports—Page 77, 78.

The soil around this village is light, and the grounds much elevated; the hay-grass is particularly sweet, though it grows on a very light soil. The farms are small, and on about 300 acres of glebe land the cabins give a disgusting appearance of squalid poverty. The year's subsistence is not attainable from the lands, and they buy much corn in the neighbouring county of Louth.

The leases in the vicinity are generally for three lives, and somewhat better for building ground in the town; the rents are principally made from the loom, and the women contribute much by spinning.

The lake at Shercock is a very fine sheet of water, being many miles in circumference. This lake is said to be one of the principal sources of Lough Erne, to which it flows, branching off by Coote-hill and the demesne of Annalee, uniting with the great waters from Bellamont forest and Dawson Grove lakes, at Tullavin, and thence winds on through an extent of country into Lough Erne. This lake is named Lough Seelin, and but a few years ago was beautifully surrounded with full grown timber; the hills, which rise so picturesque, awe this expanse of water, and were thickly planted, but now not a tree remains.

The situation for such ornamental improvements was most happy, but the miserable appearance of the country around, and the sorry village on its banks, has left nothing but this fine sheet of water to recommend it.

On the town-land of Glaseck, about two miles south of Shercock, contiguous to the Ballyborough road, on the estate of John Singleton, Esq. is a great vein of strong stone coal, of a very sulphureous quality, couring the bed of a narrow glen, through which runs a small stream, that after heavy floods rises considerably, and flows with great rapidity. When this vein is denuded of the soil by the waters of the stream, it resembles a rock of limestone, and is of a bluish colour, but when chipped is of a deep and sparkling black: along the high ridge of land running south, it appears within six inches of the surface; after the stream has fallen, an iron ore and a strong mineral spews from the joints of the mine.

There cannot be any coal mine more easily worked; at present one man with a crow-iron and spade could raise above a ton weight daily.

By the ready assistance I received from Mr. Alan Adams, we raised some of this coal; that part near the surface burned deadly and was flaty, but what was raised from about the depth of twelve or eighteen inches was much more lively, and emitted a strong blue flame, which waved a long time over the top of the fire; the slack seemed excellent for a lime-kiln.

I apprehend the quality of this coal is of the same nature of the Castlecomber collieries, in the county of Kilkenny, and where so near the surface it was so very promising, it may be concluded it is excellent at a due depth.

depth. The very little expense and labour necessary to work it is a matter of great encouragement to give it a fair trial, and the great demand for fuel in Louth, which just adjoins, and its aptitude for bleachers uses ought to stimulate some active adventurers to embark in a business, which doubtless would well repay them.

Bailyborough is a very mean village in the same barony, but has an excellent market; the church is on an eminence and commands the town, which is on the estate of Thomas Charles Stewart Corry, Esq. of Rockcorry, in the county of Monaghan. This gentleman inherits this estate from the late Charles Stewart, Esq. who long represented this county in parliament, and whose improvements and family mansion are contiguous to this village, as is the bleach-green of Mr. Speers: there is another also in the barony, Mr. George the proprietor. The crops around this vicinity consist of potatoes, flax, and oats, and are very poor. Here, as in Shercock neighbourhood, some small farmers have two cows, and they make some butter for market, which is brought up for Newry export, as also are their pigs, which make a considerable article of trade.

I know of no town more neglected, or which has better capabilities than Bailyborough; its distance from other markets, and many internal advantages, could readily raise it to a state of prosperity and consequence, were there any encouragement given, and though it

has been a principal stage on the northern road, it is now without an inn. When Mr. Corry, who is but yet a minor, shall duly consider the matter, he will doubtless complete the improvements, which his worthy predecessor had in view, and which must greatly tend to his own interest as well as the general and public benefit.

A famous lake, or rather pool, which is on the road between Ballyborough and King's Court on the summit of a mountain, is celebrated for its antiscorbutic virtues imparted by the patients bathing in it, and rubbing the mud to the affected parts, which rarely fail of being effectually cured; this very powerful remedy is testified by all the country around, it is significantly called Lough-on-leighaghs, or the healing lake.

Its distance from Ballyborough is two and an half miles, and three from King's Court; this lake well deserves a minute investigation, as much from the singularity of its situation, and the virtues of its waters, as well as from the particular circumstances attending it, of never rising or lowering; neither is there any evident supply to keep up so deep a body of water, nor does any discharge appear whatsoever to issue from it; besides, it is remarkable that the sun or atmosphere has no effect either in imparting its genial influence, or in reducing its waters by attraction, nor has it ever been frozen or its temperature altered in the severest winter.

The

The lake does not cover more than half a square rood in area, and is situated on the summit of a mountain, which has a range of lofty hills to the east and west. The grounds to the westward are considerably higher. For about six feet from the surface the water is pure and clear, but within one foot deeper it is muddy, and this mud continues for an unfathomable depth; it gradually approaches to a heavy thick mud at about thirty feet depth. I am assured by very respectable gentlemen, who live in this neighbourhood, that an immense coil of line, to which a heavy weight was affixed, had not found the bottom, but I cannot state the length of the chord. The mud, which is doubtless the efficacious part, at the depth of thirty feet, is procured by a pole of that length, round which a thick rope of hay is twisted, being turned round in the pool, to which it adheres, and comes up in a greasy shining substance resembling tar. As a corroborating proof that the virtue is principally in the mud, this is frequently sent many miles distance to patients afflicted with scrophulous complaints, and many instances have been known of a certain cure having been effected.—The water has some little tincture of chalybeate in taste, but I saw it in the month of January after great rains.—It is remarkable that a military gentleman, who had been dreadfully afflicted with a leprosy, and had ineffectually tried the most celebrated waters in England, and on the Continent, was in one season effectually cured with

this

this mud : this vicinity was ever after dear to him, and there he resided in perfect health for many years, and lived to a very old age. This lake is much frequented in summer, from June to August, for bathing, though the mud is said to be efficacious at all seasons, with which the affected parts are poulticed. The company reside at King's Court or Ballyborough, and walk or ride here every day, as there are now but the ruins of lodging houses, and the vestige of the ladies bath at the lake, which long ago were well attended to. After bathing, they drink of the well, which is about two hundred yards below the mountain, on whose summit the lake is, and some suppose its waters are discharged here by a subterraneous passage, and by such another they are supplied, which I take to be very erroneous, as this water is a hard clear spring, not having any resemblance in the taste or colour to the waters of the lake, nor is the stream from the well but a mere dribble, and where the supply can come from is still more puzzling.

The village of Muff is also in this neighbourhood, but of very little moment in appearance; here is a good annual horse fair, and also the ruins of a castle; it is contiguous to the thriving town of King's Court. The mountains, which are in the vicinity, form a great ridge, and cultivation is rapidly creeping up their sides, and such excellent crops of oats are yielded as well repay the toil of the improver: the average rate of land from seven to ten shillings per acre; when it is a little cleared

cleared of the heath and furze, it will readily bring from twelve to fifteen shillings per acre on a thirty-one years lease. The bogs are plenty, and their ashes yield a very strong manure. Marle is also in abundance, and they are not very distant from limestone, which is so remarkably powerful on these mountains. Of shelter this country is remarkably destitute, and either side of the mountain is inhospitably bleak. Approaching nearer to the county of Meath, and just within its borders, the prospect brightens, and there are several deep glens and vallies, within which flow rapid streams and afford many picturesque and interesting scenes.

The town of King's Court, which nearly bounds the county of Cavan, and is within this district, was founded not long since by the late Mervyn Pratt, Esq. and is now very spiritedly followed up by the present proprietor, his brother, the Reverend Joseph Pratt. This town is very considerably improved, and every day adds something to its consequence: it has several excellent stone and slated houses; here is every convenience for building, as they have the finest stone possible for this purpose, and sand and lime very near at hand, the latter but thirteen pence per barrel unslacked.— The late Mr. Pratt leased the town plots and one rood of garden adjoining, for one guinea per annum, in perpetuity, and set four acres of town plot for one guinea per acre, on a lease of thirty-one years. This encouragement so effectually succeeded, that the present

sent proprietor has now doubled these sums, and new houses are constantly adding—a market house has been built, as also a very neat church and a handsome chapel, and a dispensary is well attended to under the humane and careful patronage of Mrs. Pratt.

The new roads, which are making, and were so materially wanted, will considerably add to the town, and serve its very promising market.

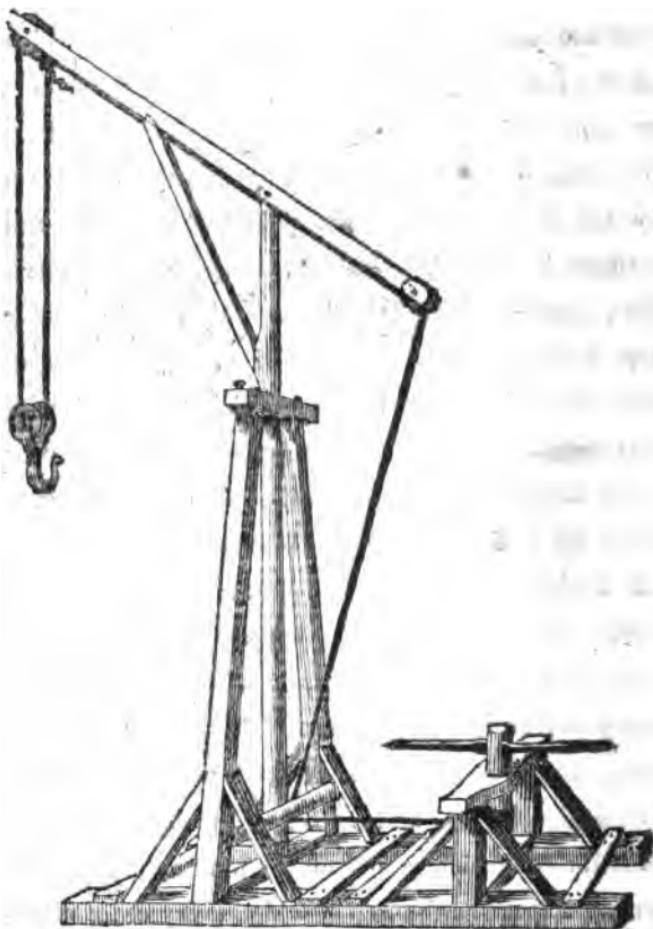
Mr. Pratt's improvements are well decorated with excellent plantations; the house, which was lately built for a lodge, is situated in a valley, and surrounded with high grounds, which are quite too near, and entirely shut out every appearance of prospect, forming a perfect amphitheatre.—Through an extensive wood rolls a rapid stream in a deep and narrow glen; the rocks, which impede the water, forming natural cascades produce a lively and picturesque scene. The new approach winds through a fertile lawn, and is well furnished with young timber. The old castle of Cabra in ruins, and the many Danish forts, which are well planted, are interesting objects in this pleasing landscape; from one of these, which bound the demesne, the view is most extensive and pleasing, comprising noted objects in Armagh, Louth, Meath, Monaghan and Cavan counties, commanding also the spire of Carrickmacross, and the extensive lake of Bellahoe. The nearer views are most highly enlivened with the adjoining elegant plantations of Cormy, where Mr. Foster has formed a paradise out of the

most

most ungracious and almost savage wilds ; and on the other side Cabra is bounded with the neat and ornamental grounds of Mullintra, the seat of Mr. James Pratt. The demesne grounds of Cabra, which immediately adjoin the house, were the site of the old town of the same name, and the ruins of the old castle, which was the family mansion, are contiguous to the house, but quite too near to have any pleasing effect, which such pieces of antiquity afford in the landscape. The soil in this neighbourhood is dry and tilly, and limestone is convenient, which refines it very powerfully ; some wheat and barley is sowed, and tolerable crops yielded. The demesne of Cormy, the seat of Henry Foster, Esq. is very beautiful, and formed with great judgment and true economy. The whole is now in the highest state of decoration and improvement. When Mr. Foster first began to reclaim this ground it was a bleak mountain, with scarce any recommendation ; but by great taste, expense, affiduity, and powerful application of lime, it is now the best improved demesne in the county. The house is planned with good effect, being intended as a wing to an extensive mansion, as are also the offices, which are conspicuous for convenience, and on the most enlarged scale, forming a spacious square, in which every office necessary for the farm-yard is most capitally furnished. In the barn is a threshing machine on an excellent plan, and indeed the yard is well stocked with almost every useful and necessary implement for the modern and improved husbandry.

I shall

I shall beg leave to give the view of one very useful machine, which is here annexed, and which I have not seen with Mr. Foster; it is peculiarly well adapted for hoisting hay and corn to the rick, in a car-load at each draught.



The proportions are as follows :

The main pole from the ground to the collar 20 feet.
The top pole from the collar to the arm 8 feet. The length of the arm from the pole to the pulley and block 14 feet. The length of the short part of the arm 8 feet.

Thomas

Thomas James Rawson, Esq. of Cardington near Athy, in the county of Kildare, is the inventor.

The garden is divided into square plots, each plot inclosed with a low beechen hedge, and is very well laid out. The drill husbandry is followed with the greatest success, and the lands are laid down with clover and artificial grasses in the greatest heart; the green crops are also in fine vigour on the most extensive scale, all drilled and regularly horse-hoed; the finest sheep-walks are now acquired, and stall feeding is engaged in on an extensive scale. The neatness, the regularity, the economy, and the uncommon success, which attends Mr. Foster's husbandry, evince the correctness of his most comprehensive and correct ideas in this delightful science; and if the elegant improvements of Cormy, which bear so striking a miniature resemblance to the beautiful and extensive plantations at Collon, should hereafter inspire the Muse, she would doubtless represent Ceres, and all the wood nymphs in her train, crowning Mr. Foster with the rural wreath and the rewards of agriculture; to him indeed every praise is due, no individual in the county has to boast half his exertions, which have met with the fullest success. The plantations of Cormy, which received the Dublin Society's premium in the years 1781, and 1784, are in the greatest vigour, and taken the best possible care of.

In this district there are but little relics of antiquity; in a cairn of stones I could trace some resemblance to

the

the ancient Leaba-Feine, which was the name given to the tombs of their chiefs, and is translated by Gen. Vallancey as the bed or graves of the nobles. He says, that this name was given to the tombs appertaining to the Milesians, or ancient Irish noblesse; they consist in general of immense rock-stones placed on others either upright, or laid flat, the covering stone being placed some horizontal, others inclined, and often circumscribed by a wall of loose stones. On several of these stones, especially on those belonging to the Druids or Bards, are found inscriptions in symbolic and alphabetic characters, specifying the name and quality of the person interred. According to the Irish Antiquaries, this species of tombs was introduced about the beginning of the third century, burning the dead having been universally discontinued throughout the island. A very remarkable tomb of this description and in great preservation, which I omitted to make mention of in my Reports of the County of Monaghan, stands in a field adjoining the road between Castle-Blaney and Newry, and about two miles from the bounds of the county of Armagh; but it requires the skill of an antiquarian to distinguish whether this relic was a tomb or an altar, as it bears a strong affinity to that species of stone altar, which in the Collectanea is called Crom-leck, or the stone of devotion, from *Crom* to bow down or worship, and *leck* a stone, a name given

given at this day to a species of Druidic altars, still remaining in different parts of Ireland, consisting generally of an inclined rock-stone, supported by several upright ones, thereby forming a room or apartment, in which the Druids attending the service of the altar generally resided, on which account they were also denominated Bothal, or house of God, and were nearly of the same construction with those erected by Abraham and the Patriarchs, mentioned by Moses, and called Bethel, which in the Hebrew language is of the same signification as Bothal in Irish. These altars were dedicated to the Supreme Being, or first cause, called frequently Crom-al, or the All Powerful Being, and erected either on plains, or on eminences in the centre of dark and thick woods. The victims sacrificed on them were deer or oxen, whence on many of them canals are cut in the stone, into which the blood flowed at the time of sacrifice, in order that divinations might be taken therefrom. There was no stated period for sacrifice offered to Crom; but when any person was willing to consult fate or Providence, relative to the future events of his own affairs, either in war or the chace, he brought the victim to the Druid, who from the state of the entrails and flowing of the blood drew presages relative to the success or the failure of the enterprize.

After the establishment of polytheism among the Celtic nations, little adoration was paid to the Supreme being.

being. Confucius is said to be the first, who restored it among the Eastern people, and according to the Irish Antiquaries, it was introduced into this island by Tighernas, about two hundred and sixty years before the Christian era, but was violently opposed by the Druids, who favoured the doctrine of polytheism; whence Tighernas and his followers are reported to have been destroyed, during the time of sacrifice, at Magh-Sleuchta in the county of Leitrim. The worship of the true God, however, from this period gained ground in Ireland, but was not universal until about the middle of the third century, when Cormac, King of North Leinster, openly declared in favour of the unity of the Deity, and condemned all degrees of polytheism; a circumstance, which greatly contributed to the introduction of Christianity some ages after. Several of the altars of Crom are yet remaining nearly entire in several parts of Ireland, particularly at Tolin and Brownstown in the county of Carlow, and near Dundalk in the county of Louth.

The cairn I alluded to in *this* county stands on the summit of the loftiest mountain of that range between King's Court and Ballyborough, and about a mile or better from Lough-on-leighaghs, which I have just now described.

The features of the country in Castleraghan barony are not very inviting; and entering Cavan from Meath county,

county, near the village of Monalty, the soil shews a deep loam and stiff argil below, very spongy, covered with rushes, and a great proportion is under bog: the appearances of limestone are very scanty and of a poor quality; but when lime has been well applied, the land seems to be very considerably improved, but I should suppose limestone gravel was a more proper manure. The disposition of the surface is very favourable to draining; in the bogs about two spades depth, is a thick stratum of a very green gravel, which would be extremely fit for ploughing into the uplands, merely to open the soil, although it does not seem to possess any calcareous quality. Fuel is very abundant; the huts are very mean and filthy, but well covered and warm. Their inclosures are the best soil they possess, reared up in great heaps, but quite naked, without any quick or thorn; if this mould was mixed with lime but in a small proportion, and ploughed into their soil, it would be an excellent manure, and there are quarries in abundance of green strong slate and stone, which could afford inclosures, and seem only calculated for such purposes, or for making drains, which are here particularly required.

The surface is very hilly in this district, and extremely irregular, but the roads are as good, rather better than in other parts of the county, neither is there a scarcity nor a profusion of water. The pasturage

turage is only for milch cows and horses; the far greater proportion of the farms are under tillage.

The farmers, though of slender capital, yet expend very considerably in liming, the value of which they are now sensible of; yet the limestone they use is far distant, and very costly. No wheat is sowed here, the soil being so wet; potatoes, flax, and oats are yet the rotation of crops, and of the former they generally take two crops successively, and three of the latter. Lime is the best manure for all crops in this soil. The limestone, which is used, is very white, rugged, and crumbly, and of the highest calcareous quality. The blue limestone here is very inferior and hard, and only partially had. Burning the surface is considerably pursued, and will bring an excellent crop; the soil is so very deep they do not injure it, as they are attentive not to over-crop, on which account their burning is never opposed. The value of labour is estimated from eight pence to ten pence through the year, but little demand for hired labourers.

Virginia is a very mean market town in this barony, on the banks of the great lake of Ramor, which flows into the Blackwater river, and thence to the Boyne. In this lake are several islands, in which are the ruins of old castles; it is of very great extent, and of much greater circumference than Shercock lake; the ancient appearance must have been very beautiful and picturesque,

tureisque, when the islands were covered with fine timber; at present the lake only is engaging; the bleak islands are but a foil to its beauties, though at a distance the rains thereon are picturesque. Contiguous to this are the neat improvements of Fortland Lodge, the seat of H. Maxwell, Esq.; near Mullogh is another very extensive lake, whose waters are discharged by another course into the same river. The small village of Kill is on the bounds of this and Clonmoghan barony; Ballyjamesduff is only to be observed as a stage on the road to Cavan town, as there is nothing to recommend it; contiguous to it is a spacious lake, but of comparative extent with either of the preceding. The late Alderman Bevan at his own expense sunk a shaft near this village, adjoining the estate of the Earl of Farnham, and came to unerring indications of good coal, but did not pursue the work; it would be well worth the attention of the present possessor to resume it, as the principal trouble and expense is already accomplished: what an acquisition would such a discovery be to the neighbouring county of Louth, which is so poorly supplied with fuel, and what resources would it insure to the proprietor? Daly's-bridge is a small village on the borders of Westmeath; it is situate in Clonmoghan barony, and contiguous to the great lake of Sheelin or Shenkin, which is of very considerable magnitude, and extends to Finnoe in Westmeath,

where it communicates with Lough Inny, thence flowing through Longford, its waters are discharged into the Shannon. In these waters are several small islands, and also the ruins of a church and a castle. The lake touches on four counties, and is the point of division between them, viz. Cavan, Longford, East and West Meath. This little town of Daly's-bridge is the only town in Clonmoghan barony. The same irregular surface is observable throughout, but the ground is not so elevated, neither are the hills of such extent in area nor so lofty: the soil is much drier and fitter for wheat culture, yet little of it is so occupied. The farms are yet larger than those in the preceding baronies; the river of Crossdony rises from a lake in the centre of this barony, and a part of the village stands in this district.

The land at this extremity is worse than the centre, not so tilly but very wet, and the rent not about 5s. per acre extraordinary.

The great lake of Gawnagh, and the village of Scraba in Longford county, just touches on the extremity of this county in Clonmoghan, and is beautifully indented, and the banks very well wooded. Mr. Sloane, who resides near Crossdony, has a good bleach mill, which is the only one in this barony.

At Kilcogy, near Glan, is the seat of Mr. Pallis, which is well ornamented and improved, and is contiguous

tiguous to the beautiful waters of Lough Sheelin, which is charmingly wooded, where also are the handsome plantations of Mr. Nugent on the borders of East Meath. In this district near Old Castle, Mr. Tatlo is extending very judicious improvements.

C.H A P. XI.

BARONY OF TULLAGH GARVEY.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony appears to be by no means inferior to any in the county, either in improvements, navigable line, or trade, in which it particularly excels, and its lands are high, easily rendered tilly with a slight application of lime, and yield very abundant crops. As these lands are accessible to the plough, we find that mode of culture more generally adopted, and it varies from two to three horses abreast, as the soil is more or less weighty.

Farms are divided in general from three to twenty acres, except where demesne lands interfere, and these are mostly grazed or turned to meadow. The poor farmers, who are all manufacturers, have about one-third of their farms under labour, which is occupied with potatoes, flax, and oats. They generally break up

up as much ground every year as they can manure with their scanty dunghill, and plant potatoes in the lazy-bed manner; the following season they divide or split the ridges, and make the ridge where the trench was before, and thus have two crops of potatoes for one year's dung. A small portion of this tilled ground is then appropriated to flax, and the remainder to oats for two or three crops successively, and they let out the land to rest without sowing any kind of grass seeds. The produce of these lands may be only given by estimation, as their crops are not for sale, merely for the support of the family. The very neediest sometimes are obliged to sell, which they do very unwillingly, perhaps to pay rent, and thus they must buy again at dear rates in summer. As no more land is tilled than they estimate will answer to their consumption, the loom is their main dependance, its profits pay their rents, and provide clothing, fuel, &c.

Their crops may perhaps rate at from ten to fifteen barrels of oats, per Irish acre; flax yields from three and an half to four and an half stone, per perch. Potatoes here have an excellent produce, and it is no uncommon crop to yield sixty barrels per acre, of forty-eight stones to the barrel.

This mode of husbandry, course of crops, and size of farms, being the pretty general or average return of Cavan, accounts why there is not a market for grain in the county; meal and potatoes are indeed for sale, but

but for the latter there is little demand. The staple commodities are the materials for the linen manufacture; they never use oxen in the plough, nor feed them but in the deer-strewn parks for home slaughter, and a very small portion is under sheep-walk, or adapted for such feeding; of course, no idea of cultivating green food has ever been in contemplation, nor are the pastures indebted to any thing but the hand of Nature, which here she has not very lavishly spread, but with a coarse aquatic grass.

HEMP.

The culture of this valuable plant has hitherto been unknown in County, or indeed in Ireland, but the late misfortune with the Northern powers of Europe induced the trustees of the linen manufacture to offer very considerable premiums for its growth in Ireland, and as several gentlemen in this county are anxious to promote this laudable design, and are unacquainted with its management, I herewith at their request annex the mode of culture, as practised in Suffolk, with some general observations thereon, which are literally copied from the General View of the Agriculture of the County of Suffolk. I shall in the next section give the mode of culture of this plant taken from the Somersettshire Survey, which seems very different from that adopted in Suffolk, and leave my readers to adopt either mode as they

they may judge best suited to their soil. That mode recommended by the Linen Board is the same as mentioned in the Somersetshire Survey; but it should be observed, that the author, Mr. Billingsley, does not say, that this plant is cultivated within the county of Somerset, and only gives general directions for rearing it. At all events, where flat husbandry is so much followed as in Cavan, and its culture and dressings &c. seem so well suited to that practised with hemp, a little time must lead to a considerable, if not a perfect knowledge of its management, which would so materially enrich the kingdom, and save such immense sums as are annually paid for its importation. In the close of the next section will be also given the premiums offered by the Linen Board, for the culture of hemp.

ON HEMP.

FROM THE GENERAL VIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

" The district of country, in which this article of cultivation is chiefly found, extends from Eye to Beccles, spreading to the breadth of about ten miles, which oblong of country may be considered as its head-quarters.

It is in the hands of both farmers and cottagers; but it is very rare to see more than five or six acres in the occupation of any one man. With cottagers, the more

more common method is, to sow it every year on the same land: there is a piece at Hoxne, which has been under this crop for seventy successive years. The soil preferred is, what is called in the district, *mixed land*, that is, sandy loam, moist, and putrid, but without being stiff or tenacious; in one word, the best land the country contains; and does well, as may be supposed, on old meadow, and low bottoms near rivers. They manure for it with great attention; so that it may be taken as a maxim, that hemp is not often sown without this preparation: of dung and moulds, twenty-five three-horse loads per acre; of dung alone, fifteen loads. This is done directly after wheat sowing is finished.

The tillage consists in three earths, with harrowing sufficient to make the soil perfectly fine; and it is laid flat, with as few furrows as possible.

Time of sowing, from the middle to the end of April, but will bear being sown all May. It is often found, that the early sown yields hemp of the best quality.

Quantity of seed, eleven pecks per acre, at the price of one shilling or two shillings a peck, generally from sixteen to eighteen-pence. Much is brought from Downham, and the fens; the seeded hemp is not so good by eighteen-pence or two shillings the stone.

No weeding is ever given to it, the hemp destroying every other plant.

It

It is pulled thirteen or fourteen weeks after sowing; the wetter the season, the longer it stands, and it bears a dry year better than a wet one; make no distinction in pulling, between the male and female, or female seed hemp, as denominated in some places. In the Cambridgeshire fens they are frequently separated, which may arise from their hemp being coarser, and the stalk larger. The price of pulling is one shilling a peck of the seed sown, or eleven shillings an acre, and beer; but if it comes in harvest, the expense is higher. It is tied up in small bundles called *bails*.

It is always water-retted*; clay-pits preferred to any running water, and cleaned out once in seven or eight years. An acre of three small waggon loads are laid in one *bed*. They will water five times in the same hole; but it is thought by some too much. If necessary to wait, they pull as the hole is ready, not chusing to leave it on the land after pulled.

It

* Generally; but in a circle of about six miles round Thilnetham, the greater part is never put into the water at all, but is dew-retted, which is done by laying it on pasture ground, for from three to six weeks according to the season, and turned five or six times. This process costs about one shilling per stone per acre, including pulling, spreading, turning, and getting up; and the hemp at market is not worth so much by two shillings per stone, as that which hath been water-retted, and therefore probably the custom of dew-retting is only followed to any considerable degree, where there are not pits sufficient to water-ret what grows in a district.—*Note by a Correspondent of the Board.*

It is generally four days in the water, if the weather is warm, if not, five; but they examine and judge by feeling it. The expense is twelve to fifteen shillings an acre.

The grafting requires about five weeks; and, if there are showers, constantly turned thrice a week; if not, twice a week. This is always on grass lands or layers. It is done by women; the expense ten shillings an acre. It is then tied up in large bundles of eight or ten hairs, and carted home to a barn or house to break directly.

Breaking is done by the stone, at one shilling. There are many people in the district, who do it, and earn fifteen or sixteen-pence a day, and beer. The offal is called hemp *sheaves*, makes good fuel, and sells at two-pence a stone.

It is then marketable, and sold by sample at Dis, Harling, Bungay, &c. price 5*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* a stone; generally 7*s.* 6*d.* In 1795, 10*s.*

The buyer heckles it, which is done at 1*s.* 6*d.* a stone; he makes it into two or three sorts: *long strike*, *short strike*, and *pull tow*. Women buy it and spin it into yarn, which they carry to market, and sell at prices proportioned to the fineness. This the weaver buys, who converts it into cloth, which is sold at market also. The spinners earn better and more steady wages, than by wool: a common hand will do two skeins a day, three of which are a clew, at nine-pence, consequently

quently she earns six-pence a day, and will look to her family and do half a clue. Nor is the trade, like wool, subject to great depressions, there being always more work than hands; the consequence of a brisk demand. They begin to spin at four or five years old: it is not so difficult to spin hemp as wool; but best to learn with the *rath*. For very fine yarn, one shilling a clue is paid for spinning. About Hoxne, the yarn is half whitened before weaving; but in other places, weave it brown, which is reckoned better. The weavers of fine cloth earn 16*s.* or 18*s.* a week, middling 10*s.*

The fabrics wrought in this country from their own hemp have great merit. They make it to 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* 6*d.* a yard, yard wide, for shirts; and I was shown sheets and table linen, now quite good, after twenty years wear. Huckabacks, for table linen, 13*d.* to 7*s.* a yard, ell wide.

The produce of an acre may, on an average, be reckoned forty-five stone, at 7*s.* 6*d.* Some crops rise to fifty-five, and even more; and there are bad ones so low as twenty-five. If sold on the ground as it stands, generally 1*s.* a rod, or 8*l.* an acre.

The account of an acre may be thus estimated:

	EXPENSES.	£. s. d.
Rent, tithe, and rates,	-	1 10 0
Manure, 25 loads, at 1s. 6d.	-	1 17 6
Three earths, at 4d. harrow included,	-	0 12 0
Seed,	-	0 16 6
Sowing,	-	0 0 6
Pulling,	-	0 12 0
Watering,	-	0 12 0
Grazing,	-	0 10 0
Breaking,	-	2 12 6
Carriage and delivery,	-	0 5 0
		<hr/>
		£.9 8 10

PRODUCE.

Forty-five stone, at 7s. 6d.	-	£.16 17 6
Expenses,	-	9 8 10
		<hr/>
Profit,	-	£.7 8 8

All accounts of this sort must be received with due allowances for many variations. The preceding was taken at Hoxne; but at Beccles (where, however, the quantity cultivated is not equally great) a very different mode of calculation takes place, and rent is valued.

EXPENSE.

EXPENSE.

		L.	S.	D.
Rent, tithe, and rates,	-	-	4	0 0
Manure,	-	-	3	0 0
Tillage,	-	-	1	4 0
Seed, twelve pecks,	-	-	1	16 0
Pulling,	-	-	0	19 0
Watering,	-	-	0	12 0
Grazing,	-	-	0	10 0
Breaking,	-	-	2	10 0
				<hr/>
		£	14	11 0
				<hr/>

PRODUCE.

Fifty stone, at 8s.	-	-	£	20 0 0
Expenses,	-	-	£	14 11 0
Profit,	-	-	£	5 9 0

The common method is, to sow turnips on the land immediately after the hemp is cleared: this is for producing, among the little occupiers, some food for a cow and the family. With good management, one ploughing and one hoeing will carry them to the value of 30s. But an evil arising from the practice is, that the land must, for the next crop, be mucked in the spring, when carting

carting does more damage. When corn is sown after the hemp, it is wheat; and these are the best crops in the country, as nothing is esteemed to clean land like this plant. After the wheat, barley or oats, and this great also.

Finding the profit so great, I demanded why the culture did not increase rapidly. I was answered, that its coming in the midst of harvest was embarrassing, and that the attention it demanded in every stage of its progress was great; being liable to be spoiled, if the utmost care was not perpetual.

It is considered, and with great justice, throughout the district, to be of infinite consequence to the country, and especially to the poor, who are entirely supported by it, and are now earning six-pence a day by spinning, with more ease than three-pence is gained on the other side the county by wool.

The culture has increased considerably in the last ten years.

A manufacturer at Stowmarket thus communicates to me on the subject, from whose account it appears that there are variations:—“Hemp may be grown with success, on the same land, many years, by manuring annually. The quantity of seed usually sown, is from nine to twelve pecks per acre; varying with the strength of the soil, and the custom of the country. In those places, where the finest and best hemps are grown, twelve pecks is a common quantity.

“The

" The soil and season make a very material difference in the produce and quality. An acre will produce from 25 to 60 stone; an average crop may be estimated about 36 or 38.

" Hemp, when left for seed, is seldom water-retted, from the additional trouble and expense; but I am of opinion, it would be better if so done. It is generally stacked and covered during the winter, and is spread upon meadow-land in January or February. If the season suits, (particularly if covered with snow) it will come to a good colour, and make strong coarse cloths. It is much inferior to hemp pulled in proper time, and water-retted.

" The custom of many places is, to dew-ret their hemp; that is, to spread it on meadow-land as soon as pulled, and turn it frequently; but this is a very bad method of retting it; the bark will come off completely—it therefore requires more violent means of bleaching the yarn, and consequently diminishes the strength. It is likewise much sooner injured in rainy seasons than hemp water-retted: water-retting is performed by binding the hemp in small bunches, with the under hemp, when pulled, and, as soon as may be, placed in rows crossing each other in the water, and immersed. Standing water is deemed the best: it requires four, five, or six days steeping, till the outside coat easily rubs off, and is then spread on meadow-land, and turned frequently until finished. The same water will not be

proper

proper for receiving hemp more than three times in a season, and the first water always produces the best colour, in the least time.

" But I do not pretend to give exact directions for managing hemp; it can only be acquired by practice. When the hemp is retted, it is bound up in sheaves or large bunches, and with a machine called a brake the cambuck is broken in pieces, and with a swingle is cleared from the small remaining pieces of the cambuck, and then bound up in stones. In Suffolk 14*½* pounds of hemp is deemed a stone. The hemp, which breaks off in the operation, and called shorts, is bound up by itself, and is about half the value of the long hemp.

" The price of breaking hemp varies with the length, and the ease or difficulty, with which the cambuck separates from it: from 1*2d.* to 1*8d.* or 2*od.* is paid; 1*2d.* and 1*4d.* are the most common prices. The refuse is only fit for burning, and is sold from one penny to two-pence per sack.

" I have been informed there are mills erected for breaking flax; and, as the mode of breaking is similar, I imagine they might be applied to hemp. In some parts of the country, where much hemp is grown, this might prove a considerable saving. But, as hemp is very bulky before it is broken, and small quantities only are grown in each village, in general, I fear it would not answer the expense to erect many of them.

" When

“ When the hemp is broken, it is fit for market, and is purchased by hecklers. Dis, Harleston, and Halef-worth, are considerable markets for hemp; but the greatest quantity is sold to neighbouring hecklers, without carrying to market.

“ The prices vary very much: dew-ret hemp sells from 1*s.* to 18*d.* or 2*s.* lower than water-ret. The present price of the best water-ret is about 8*s.* 6*d.* per stone; this price is very high. Dew-ret hemp is proper for coarse yarns only; and if that were made from water-retted hemp, it would be stronger and of a better colour.

“ The first operation of the heckler, is bunching or beating the hemp; this was formerly, and is still, in some places, done by hand, but in Suffolk is now always done by a mill, which lifts up two, and sometimes three heavy beaters alternately, that play upon the hemp, while it is turned by a man or boy to receive the beating regularly. This mill is sometimes worked by a horse, and sometimes by water; but I think a machine might be constructed to save the expense of either. In this I may be mistaken.

“ The time, requisite for beating the hemp, varies according to the quality of it; and the purposes it is intended for; the finer the tow is intended to be, the more beating the hemp requires. When bunched, it is dressed or combed by drawing it through the heckles, resembling wool-combers tools, only fixed. The price

paid the heckler vary in different places, and with the different degrees of fineness, to which it is dressed; from three farthings to two-pence per pound is paid; and the earnings are from 15*d.* or 16*d.* to 2*s.* per day.

" In the hemp trade there are no fixed rules for combing, as in the wool trade. The same hemp is dressed finer or coarser, to suit the demands of the purchasers. It is sometimes divided into two or three sorts of tow; and sometimes the whole is worked together for one sort. The prices of tow vary, from about 6*d.* to 18*d.* per pound.

" The heckler either sells the tow to spinners and to weavers, or puts it out to spin himself, and sells the yarn to the weavers. The prices of spinning vary with the fineness of the yarn.

	d.	d.
1 clue from a pound is worth spinning, about,	7	or 6½
1½ clues from a pound,	-	-
2 clues from a pound,	-	-
2½ clues from a pound,	-	-
3 clues from a pound,	-	-

" The spinners, who buy the tow, sell their yarn to neighbouring weavers, or at the nearest market. The yarn is reeled, in many places: 2 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads, 1 lea; 20 leas, 1 skein; 3 skeins, one clue, 4800 yards: in others, 3 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads, 1 lea;

1 lea; 20 leas, 1 skein; 2 skeins, 1 clue, 4800 yards. The former is the most convenient method for the bleacher and weaver.

" Weavers, in general, purchase their yarn from spinners in the neighbourhood, or at markets, and deliver it to the whitester, as he is commonly called, who returns it, bleached, to the weaver; receiving 20 or 21 for bleaching 120 clues.

" Bleaching the yarn is performed by laying it in large tubs, covered with thick cloths, upon which ashes are placed; and pouring hot water daily through it, turning the yarn frequently, until the bark comes off. It is then rendered whiter, by spreading it on poles in the air. This is a difficult part of the business; the art consisting in procuring the best colour with the least diminution of strength.

" Weaving is, in general, conducted in the manner I have stated; that is, by purchasing the yarn at market, and, after bleaching, making it into cloth of various degrees of fineness and breadth. The breadths are half-ell; three-quarters wide; three-quarters and a nail; seven-eights and yard-wide sheeting; yard wide; seven yards one-eighth wide; and ell-wide. Prices from 10d. per yard, half-ell wide, to 4s. or 4s. 6d. ell-wide.

" Exceeding good huckaback is also made from hemp, for towels and common table-cloths. The

low-priced hemsps are a general wear for husbandmen, servants, and labouring manufacturers; the sorts from 18d. to 2s. per yard, are the usual wear of farmers and tradesmen; the finer sorts, seven-eighths wide, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per yard, are preferred by many gentlemen, for strength and warmth, to other linen.

" The largest quantity of hemp is sold as it comes from the loom, and bleached by the purchasers; but some quantity is bleached, ready for weaving, either by the weaver or by a whitester: this is done by boiling it in lye (made from ashes,) and frequently spreading it on the graft till it is white.

" Many weavers vend their cloths entirely by retail, in their neighbourhood; others to shopkeepers, principally in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and in part of Essex, and others at Diss, where there is a hall for the sale of hemp cloth, once a week; and at Norwich, where there is a street occupied by weavers, from different parts of the country, who have shops in it.

" The earnings of the journeyman weaver vary considerably, from the season; frosty, windy, and very dry weather being unfavourable; and they vary also, from the great difference in skill, and the quality of the materials to work upon: they may earn from about 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day; in extra cases, more.

" I think,

" I think, Sir, you will perceive, from the statement I have given of the manner, in which the hemp trade is conducted, the impossibility of ascertaining, with any tolerable degree of certainty, the profits arising from an acre of hemp, converted into cloth; and that estimates, drawn from sources so vague and uncertain, would be more likely to mislead than inform.

" I will now, agreeably to your request, proceed to mention a few hints, which may tend to the improvement and extension of the trade.

" Although I have stated hemp, in the process of manufacturing, to pass through the hands of the breaker, heckler, spinner, whitester, weaver, and bleacher of cloth, yet many of these different operations are frequently carried on under the direction of the same person. Some weavers bleach their own yarn and cloth; others their cloth only: others heckle their tow, and put it out to spinners; others buy the tow, and put it out; and a few carry on the whole of the trade themselves. This latter is the plan I pursue, the advantages appearing to me considerable.

" When the trade is conducted by different persons, their interests often clash: by under-retting the hemp, the grower increases the weight; by slightly beating it, the heckler increases the quantity of tow, but leaves it fuller of bark; by drawing out the thread beyond the staple, the spinner increases the quantity of yarn, but injures the quality; by forcing the bleaching, the white-

Rer

ster increases his profit, but diminishes the strength of the yarn. The whole should, therefore, be checked and regulated by the weaver, with a view to his ultimate profit; which, in the hemp trade, should ever be deemed inseparable from the strength of his cloths.

" It appears to me, that in manufacturing cloth, in general, in Ireland, Scotland, and elsewhere, strength has been sacrificed to fineness and colour. Flax is pulled too early (being finest before it acquires its full strength,) and drawn beyond its staple, to render the cloth finer, at the price; and although there never was a time, when the linen manufacture excelled so much in colour and in fineness, yet the want of strength was never so universally complained of.

" The hemp manufacture cannot rival that of flax in fineness, nor is it desirable. In colour, it is by no means deficient, and possesses this advantage over Irish and all other linens, that its colour improves in wearing, while theirs declines. But the article, in which English hemp, properly manufactured, stands unrivalled, is the strength: flax will not bear the least comparison with it, in this respect; and I can assert, from experience, that it is far superior in strength to Russian—the strongest known hemp next to the English. Every regulation made in the trade should, therefore, be done with a view to improve it in this respect, and one of the most beneficial I conceive to be an increased bounty on the growth of hemp; if it could be procured,

the

the additional bounty to be paid for hemp water-retted only. If large farmers could be induced to grow it, as they became habituated to the management of it, the trouble would decrease, and the bounty might in time be discontinued.

" The necessity of keeping up the quality of the cloths should be strongly impressed on the weavers; perhaps, if premiums were given for the best manufactured hemp cloths, it might be serviceable, under proper regulations. I think the public would be found very much disposed to encourage a strong manufacture of cloth, and there are facts, which induce me to think so.

" Considerable quantities of Russian sheeting are sold in England, merely for their strength, as they are coarser, at the price, than any other foreign linen.

" Hemp, if known, would always be preferred, being stronger than Russian, from the quality of the thread, and, at the same time, lighter in washing, which is often an objection to Russian.

" The quantity of good hemp being gradually increased, would insensibly increase the number of spinners, and extend the trade. Some regulations are wanting, respecting reeling the yarn. The same method the wool trade has adopted, would not, I think, succeed; as the spinners often buy the tow, and therefore it would be impracticable for an inspector to examine the yarn. But, if the punishment were similar, and the

the owner of the tow, the putter out, or the person, to whom it was offered, were permitted to prosecute, if might answer the purpose.

" In Ireland and in Scotland, I am informed, there is a board, or committee of gentlemen, entrusted with powers by government for the regulation of the linen trade: if some plan of this kind were adopted, I think it would be very serviceable, as they would acquire, in time, a complete knowledge of the trade, in its different branches, and apply such rewards and regulations, as the different times and situations would require, and might extend these to circumstances, which general regulations by parliament could not effect.

" In Scotland and in Ireland, each piece of cloth is stamped by an officer, with the length, breadth, and number of one hundred threads contained in the warp.

" If a similar practice were obtained here, it would have a beneficial tendency; as the length, breadth, and rate (or number of threads in the warp) being given, it is easy to ascertain, what should be the weight. If then a certain mark were put on each piece of hemp, manufactured agreeably to the best rules, it would improve the quality of the cloths, by exciting competition rather in goodness than in fineness. This would also prevent a practice, which, I fear, prevails greatly; the selling other cloths, made up to imitate hemp, in lieu of it.

" If

" If the method I have hinted should be found impracticable, some means should be devised to prevent this imposition on the public, which, if suffered to proceed, will discredit, and perhaps ruin the manufactory.

" You will perceive, Sir, that these are, many of them, hazarded thoughts, which it would require much reflection to mature and reduce to practice.

" You inquire if Suffolk hemp is used for ropes?—I believe, never. It is too fine and dear; and sacking is principally made from Russian hemp, although the offal of English is sometimes used.

" I hope, Sir, you will find the above account in some degree satisfactory; if you wish any further information, I shall be happy to give it you, as far as in my power. You will be pleased to make any use of these hints you think proper—concealing my name. I have inclosed a few specimens of hemp cloth, of different degrees of fineness."

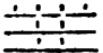
The Rev. Mr. Mills, of Bury, also writes thus:—
" Hemp delights in a black rich mould, the richer and stronger† it is, the better. It has sometimes been

sown

* A rich black strong soil is best for every thing; but it would too much discourage the culture, if it was supposed to be essentially necessary: I have seen it thrive well, sown after turnips fed off on good common friable loams; manure will make it thrive on any except very dry and sterl soils.—A. T.

† A good and friable clay, well manured with mould, will answer: the soil cannot be too rich.

sown upon the breaking-up an old lay, and where there has been sufficient depth, with success. Let the land be well worked and manured with thirty loads per acre, about a fortnight before seed time, which is from the beginning to the end of April; if sown earlier, as the plants are almost as tender as French-beans, the frosts would greatly injure, if not totally destroy them; the sooner (the season permitting) it is sown, the better, though it has been sometimes deferred to the 15th of May. Three bushels and an half of good bright feed are sufficient for an acre, which should be gently and lightly harrowed in: the birds must be kept off the land till the plants appear: the time of pulling is about the beginning of August, or, more properly speaking, thirteen weeks from the time of sowing: the leaves turning yellow and the stalks white, are signs of its maturity; the male and female hemp are pulled together: indeed when the crop is thick, it is impossible to separate them. The expense of pulling is generally estimated at one shilling per peck, according to the quantity originally sown.

“ When it is all taken up and bound in small bundles, with bands at each end, to such a bigness as you can grasp with both hands, it is conveyed to the pond of standing water (if a clay-pit the better,) where it is laid bundle upon bundle, direct and across, thus,
 this is termed a bed of hemp, and after it is piled to such a thickness, as to answer the depth of the

the water (which cannot be too deep,*) it is loaded with blocks and logs of wood, until all of it is totally immersed: after remaining in this state four or five days, as the weather shall direct, it is taken out and carried to a field of aftermath, or any other grass, that is clean and free from cattle; the bundles being untied, it is spread out thin, stalk by stalk; in this state it must be turned every other day, especially in moist weather, lest the worms should injure it; thus it remains for six weeks or more, then it is gathered together, tied in large bundles, and kept dry† in a house till December or January, when the stalks are broken, and the bark wholly freed from them, by an instrument called a braker. The art of breaking it, by a labourer of common capacity, would be learnt in a few hours, and the swinging of it, which follows, requiring some sleight as well as labour, though more difficult, might, in a little longer time, be acquired. After breaking and swinging, it is sent to the heckler and hemp-dresser, to be prepared for spinning, according to the fineness desired.

“ Should

* This deserves experimental inquiry; watering hemp is a partial rotting through fermentation; the vicinity of the atmosphere must for that purpose be necessary. The best hemp ponds I have seen, have not exceed the depth of five feet.—A. Y.

† It might do as well stacked if kept perfectly dry.

" Should the hemp stand for seed, the yarn of it will never be so white, as it is not watered, but only spread on the grass for the benefit of the dews; it will not be improper to observe, in this case, after it is tied in bundles, it is set up like wheat in shocks, till the seed will freely shed, and then threshed out.

" In the state hemp comes from the brake, it will fetch from 6s. to 7s. 6. per stone*; in the year 1787, it sold as high as 9s. The produce is so variable and uncertain, that in one season a rood and six perches of land has produced seventeen stone, and another with the same culture and manure, only twelve.

* The hemp is tied up in stones, when it comes from the brake.

" The

"The expences of cultivation may be thus estimated:

	£. s. d.
Rent of an acre of land,	1 0 0
Ploughing, Sowing, &c.	0 10 6
Three bushels and an half of seed (sold from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. per peck) at	
1s. 6d. per peck,	1 1 0
Boy keeping birds a week or more,	9 1 6
Pulling, at the rate of 1s. per week, ac- cording to the seed sown,	0 14 0
Getting it in and out of water, turning and laying up,	1 1 0
Tithe and town charges* not estimated.	<u> </u>
	£.4 8 0

"The expense of breaking hemp, is from 1s. to
1s. 6d. per stone; the dressing at the hecklers 1s. 6d.

per

	£. s. d.
* To continue this account:	4 8 0
Tithe and rates, suppose	0 6 0
The lowest crop mentioned, is 48 stone per acre, let us suppose only 40, breaking at 1s. 3d.	2 10 0

Total,	£.7 4 0
--------	---------

PRODUCE.

	£. s. d.
Forty stone, at 7s.	14 0 0
Parliamentary duty, 3d. a stone,	0 10 0
	£.14 10 0
Expenses,	7 4 0
Neat profit per acre,	£.7 6 0
	A. T.

per stone; and the spinning (according to the fineness) from 7d. to 1s. per clue. A clue is three skeins, a skein is twenty leas, a lea is forty threads, a thread is two yards when reeled. The weight of a clue varies with the fineness or coarseness of the thread.

"There cannot be much difficulty in a wool-spinner's learning to spin hemp; the usual stint of a woman, is two skeins per day, or from four pence half-penny to eight pence, according to the fineness; from this there are no deductions, and the price has been nearly the same for some years.

"As you requested, I inquired if a rich sand would answer for the cultivation of hemp, and whether wheat might be sown after it. Both these questions were answered in the negative*. And the reason assigned against the wheat was, the richness of the land would make it run to straw. Oats is the general crop after hemp. Turnips, sown immediately after it, have answered tolerably."

* It is common to sow wheat after hemp in various parts of this kingdom, and also in France; and it is reckoned one of the best preparations for that grain; but upon a rich black mould, the observation of this gentleman is probably very just. I have seen very fine hemp on good sands.—A. T.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

The breed of cattle is very indifferent; for as little attention has been paid to their improvement as to the fertilizing of the soil. This neglect comes in an heavy charge on the landlord, who could at a trifling expense introduce that breed, by which his tenantry might be materially bettered. Milch cattle are housed during the winter, after the meadows are cut; the grass is not stirred for a day; the day following it is turned and separated into lap-cocks; these are shook out for several days, and made a second time into lap-cocks, and it becomes quite dead, and bleached before it is tramped.

The produce of the meadow is generally from eight to twelve or fourteen good horse-loads per acre; the hay however is very coarse and rushy, except the meadow has been well drained and manured, which the poor farmer never thinks of. Much of their meadow ground has been bog, which has been cut out, and when well levelled they burn the surface, plant potatoes for two years, sow one crop of oats, and then let out: some few will procure hay-seed of the commonest kind, but very generally it is left to throw up the natural herbage, which for a year or two is very tolerable, and the produce good, but quickly degenerates to

a coarse

a coarse spiry grass, and rushes, if not manured. This neglect shews their indolence or depraved system; for the manure, which well answers, is a dressing of ashes, which is ever inexhaustible here, and would well repay their trouble.

As I have shewn the proportion of their tillage lands, the remainder of the farm is appropriated to grass for a cow or two, and it is surprising, after the supply of the family's milk, how much butter they regularly send to Newry market, for the export trade; small parcels, of course, from each farm, but the aggregate is very considerable: The trade of hides is so trifling as scarcely to deserve notice; what this country supplies are sent to Dundalk, value about thirty-five to fifty shillings per cwt.; butter rates to ninety-four shillings ditto; tallow from seven shillings and six pence to eight shillings and six pence per stone; but this also of so inconsiderable a quantity, as nothing equal to the demand of the country. Of wool, they have none from their own pastures, but it is brought to their fairs and markets, from Louth, Meath, and Westmeath.

HEMP.

Here follow the directions for the culture of this plant, as taken from Mr. Billingsley's Survey of Somersetshire, which will be found to differ from those given in the Survey of the County of Suffolk, as copied in the preceding section.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS

FOR THE

CULTURE OF HEMP,

FROM THE SOMERSETSHIRE SURVEY.

THE culture of hemp and flax agrees in many respects; but in their nature and form they are widely different. In flax, the male and female embryo are lodged in the same flower; but in hemp the male is found on some plants, and the female on others; they are, therefore, called *male* and *female* hemp; that which has only flowers is the *male*, and that which has seeds is the *female* hemp. The male is ripe five or six weeks before the female, and they both arise from the same seed.

Hemp likes a deep, rich, dry, sandy loam, and abhors a cold wet clay; a piece of woodland, grubbed up, generally answers well. It requires fresh land, good tillage, but seldom dung: even land exhausted with other crops, if *well tilled*, will produce good hemp, and if properly managed, will leave the land as clean as a garden.

The quantity of seed per acre about three bushels, and time of sowing April or May; great care must be taken to keep off the birds, for they are very fond of the seed, and their time of feeding is principally before

sun-rise, and within half an hour of sun-set. Compleat weeding is as necessary for hemp as for flax.

About the beginning of August the male hemp will be ripe, and great care should be taken that the pullers do not trample and injure the female hemp left standing. It must be gathered into small bundles, and nothing more is necessary than to dry it in a proper manner, so as to make it fit for working.

In managing the female hemp, particular regard is to be had to the seed; care, therefore, must be taken in drying it. After it is tied up in bundles about the size of a yard round, it should be set up in the sun for three or four days; but if the weather be difficult, it may be stacked in small mows of about a waggon-load each, where it may remain till it is thoroughly dry, and fit to be housed; a little wet does not injure the stalk, but it greatly damages the seed. An acre of land will produce from twenty to thirty bushels of seed; and the stalk of the female hemp is more valuable than the stalk of the male. The watering, breaking, and dressing of hemp, is so nearly like those operations on flax, that I shall not detain my reader any longer on this article, and shall only add, that in many cases the crop is more profitable than that of flax.

PREMIUMS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF HEMP, OFFERED BY THE LINEN BOARD.

AT a meeting of the *TRUSTEES OF THE LINEN AND HEMP MANUFACTURE OF IRELAND*, on Tuesday, the 3d of March, 1801.

Hon. JOHN BARON DILLON in the Chair.

The Right Hon. *John Foster* reported from the Committee a plan of encouragement for promoting the growth of hemp, and the establishment of the sail-cloth manufactory, which was read and is as follows:

HEMP.

The trustees of the linen and hempen manufacture, anxious that this kingdom should effectually lay hold of the present opportunity, which the interruption of trade with the northern states offers for promoting the growth of hemp, and the establishment of the sail-cloth manufactory, call upon all landholders or farmers to assist their endeavours, by allotting some portion of their ground to the raising of hemp.

They understand it is as easy in its culture as flax; the richer the soil and the deeper the loam the better will be the produce; it succeeds admirably in drained bog manured with ashes; and the trustees propose to procure a sufficient number of persons properly skilled in the management of it from the time it is ripe for pulling, until it is made fit for the spinner.

These persons will be stationed in various parts of the kingdom, and orders will be given to the county inspectors to receive all applications from gentlemen or farmers, who may desire their assistance, and to send them accordingly.

The trustees will also give the following bounties, and continue them for three years.

BREAKING AND SCUTCHING.

1. For every stone of Hemp grown in this kingdom in the years 1801, 1802, and 1803, well broken and scutched for the hatchel or for cordage, the sum of 4d. and a further bounty of a complete set of hemp hatchels to every person, who shall have broken and scutched half a ton weight thereof.

2. To the owner of any mill or mill machinery, wherein not less than thirty tons of sound hemp of Irish growth shall be broken and scutched perfectly before the 1st of June 1802, the sum of 100/-

3. To

3. To the owner of any mill or mill machinery, which shall be erected after the 1st of May 1801, whether entirely new, or added to an old mill, wherein there shall be broken and scutched the greatest quantity of sound hemp of Irish growth, between the 1st of June 1802, and the 1st of June 1803, not less than 50 ton, the sum of 150l.—for the next greatest quantity, not less than 40 ton, between the said periods, the sum of 100l.—and for the next greatest quantity, not less than 30 ton, between the said periods, the sum of 50l.

4. To the owner of any mill or mill machinery, now or hereafter to be erected, wherein there shall be broken and scutched the greatest quantity of sound hemp of Irish growth, between the 1st of June 1803, and the 1st of June 1804, not less than 100 ton, the sum 300l.—for the next greatest quantity, not less than 80 ton, the sum of 200l.—and for the next greatest quantity, not less than 60 ton, the sum of 100l.

5. For every stone of hemp of Irish growth, well watered, retted, and scutched, which shall be hackled and dressed fit for spinning, between the 1st of August, 1801, and the 1st of August, 1804, the sum of 3d.

SPINNING.

6. For all machinery which shall be erected, whether entirely new or added to old mills, for spinning hemp or flax for sail-cloth, before the first of August, 1802, to be worked by water or steam, a sum after the rate of 10s. for every spindle it shall contain, on sufficient security being given that the number of spindles, for which such premium shall be received, shall be regularly kept at work in spinning hemp or flax for three years.

For this premium the sum of 3000*l.* will be appropriated—and if more than 6000 spindles shall be claimed for, the trustees will reserve to themselves the power of dividing the sum of 3000*l.* rateably among the claimants.

7. To the person, who shall spin such yarn by such machinery, before the first of August, 1804, a sail-cloth loom made of the best materials, and on the most improved plan, will be ordered by the trustees for every two ton of good even merchantable yarn so spun; every such loom to continue the property of the board, into whosesoever hands such spinner may give it.

ITINERANT HEMP DRESSERS.

All persons, who can produce sufficient proof of being perfectly skilled in the management of hemp throughout all its different processes, from the time it is pulled until it is completely dressed for spinning, and wish to engage with the trustees, are desired to apply to their Secretary, at the Linen office, Dublin, or their Agent, Edward Stewart, Esq. Aldermanbury, London; and the first twelve, who shall be approved of, will be appointed itinerant hemp dressers, at 30*l.* a year each, and will have the liberty to receive from the persons, whom they shall be ordered to attend, such reasonable allowance as the trustees shall previously sanction.

MILL WRIGHT AND MACHINE MAKERS.

All persons of this description, in Great Britain or Ireland, who wish to be employed in constructing any machinery for the scutching, dressing, spinning, or weaving of hemp, may register their names, characters, and prices or terms if they choose, in the Linen office,

office, Dublin, where a book will be kept for the purpose, and be open at all times to the inspection of any person, who may wish to erect machinery.

And the same being read paragraph by paragraph, was unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be published.

By order of the trustees,

JAMES CORRY, SEC.

LINEN-OFFICE.

THE following Letter from the Navy-Office to the Lords of the Committee of Council for trade and foreign plantations, has been sent by their Lordships' orders to the Right Hon. JOHN FOSTER, to be communicated to the trustees of the Linen and Hempen manufactures.

JAS. CORRY, Sec. to the trustees.

SIR,

Our Secretary having laid before us your letter of the 24th of last month, transmitting, by direction of the Lords of the Committee of Council for trade and foreign plantations, to whom it had been referred to consider

consider, what measures it may be most proper to propose to parliament for encouraging the growth of hemp, &c—copies of two minutes made by their Lordships on the 23d of January and 21st March last on that subject, and signifying their Lordships' desire, that we state to the committee what steps we have taken in consequence of the previous communications on this subject, and what further steps we may think necessary to be taken in order to carry the intentions of the committee, as expressed in the said minute, into complete execution.

We desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that, wishing to give all possible encouragement to the cultivation of hemp in Ireland, agreeably to their Lordships intention, we are willing to engage to receive into his majesty's stores all such hemp as may be proved to be Irish growth, and shall be found fit for the navy, for three years, from the present time, at the market price of the day, on which the same may be received; and will further engage, that the price shall not, during that period, be less than 50*l.* sterling per ton.

With respect to canvas, the only encouragement we can hold out to the Irish manufacturers is, that of not sending any from this country for the supply of his Majesty's ships stationed on the coast of Ireland, and the authorising our agent, Mr. Browne of Kinsale, to purchase from the Irish manufacturers, at the market price,

price, such quantities of sail-cloth as may be wanted for those ships; and also, when making future contracts for the supply of that article for the navy, to put the Irish manufacturers upon the same footing as the manufacturers of England and Scotland, provided they make the article conformably to the existing act of parliament for the manufacture thereof.

We are, Sir, your very humble servants,

A. S. HAMOND,

J. HENSLOW,

GEO. ROGERS,

W. BELLINGHAM,

S. GAMBIER.

Navy-office, May 8, 1801.

Sir Stephen Cottrell,
Council-office.

SECT. 3. Farms.

Their farms rate from three to twenty acres, the average may be six; very few of them exceed twenty; but on all of these farms are one or more cottiers, who are bound to work, not in the field, but at the loom, for regular day's hire, or at task work, according to agreement.

These

These cottiers are of two descriptions, and their tenure is termed the dry or the wet cot-take, as explained in the Monaghan Survey; suffice it here to mention, the former has not the privilege of grazing his cow, which the latter enjoys, and the dry cottier pays for his house, garden, and bog-leave, from a guinea and an half to two guineas per annum; the wet cottier from four to five guineas, as he may be supplied with hay, and have one or two cows. Their landlord is obliged to repair their houses; the breach of this covenant causes great dissentions.

The small wages of the dry cottier, even with his wife's industry, are insufficient to procure the common necessaries, much less the comforts of life for his wretched family.

The farmer or the employer, who is more commonly called the manufacturer, lives well, and has a good profit from the industry of his cottiers; a pig, a small tub of butter, and a calf, pay *his* rent; for these people hold their lands on very easy terms. A manufacturer, who is able to work four looms in his own house and employ his cottiers, soon acquires a comfortable independence. A weaver can, in general, earn from twelve to eighteen pence per day, according to his attention or the goodness of his warp, at task-work, and at daily hire from eight pence to twelve pence; sometimes the demand is so great, as their wages considerably multiply, and at other seasons they are much reduced:

duced: a slovenly and dirty mode of living, and wretched appearance of economy is too prevalent, and easily accounts for the rapid and unusual extension of infectious disorders amongst this class of people.

The leases are generally for twenty-one years and one life, or three lives, or thirty-one years; and the middle-men, who have been the bane of this country, are not suffered to renew their leases—the landed proprietors are at length sensible of their destructive interference, and seem combined together and determined to resist them with vigour and hostility.

Too often we here find these leases bear the vestige of feudal oppression, and the miserable tenant loaded with innumerable duties; such as duty work, duty fowl, duty yarn, which at the period of the date of the lease were cent. per cent. cheaper, and of less value than the rate of this day, and yet are still shamefully exacted. How cruel is it to exact a peasant's labour, and that of his horses at many miles distance from his habitation, and give him neither payment nor entertainment for himself or his cattle?

The county as well as the parish taxes are very small, but in this barony are extremely unequally laid on; referring the reader to the first chapter and third section, relating to the division of the county by carvagh, it may tend as a further illustration of that absurd and unfair assessment, to mention that it frequently occurs here, that in one town-land are ten carvagh, and

and but one in the adjoining land; some of these contain thirty acres, others not five acres, yet will these five pay as much cess as the thirty, and no material difference in the value of the ground. County cess may average six pence per acre, and parish cess one penny. As I have already shewn that labour is principally performed here with horses, the proportion of cattle employed is one to five acres, bought in after harvest three years old, and sold out in May or June following; their place is then supplied with a cow; they are fond of dealing in horse flesh, though they rear but few foals, and they generally make money of them, besides getting their labour.

Their fences are remarkably bad, loose ditches made of stone, sods or clay, without either grips or quicks; a shameful neglect of this most necessary branch of husbandry is too obvious in many of the lands, even of the gentry; a temporary fence of sods too often incloses the corn and potatoe plots, which are levelled when the crop is taken off the ground; where quicks are carefully attended to, they grow in great vigour, and very rapidly, which shews how well the soil agrees with this most useful and ornamental division of lands; and the capital inclosures of Mr. Moore at Tullavin, and the healthy and ornamental hedges at Mr. Bruncker's, at Ballgreen, should be a stimulus to the neighbouring gentry, to follow such spirited improvers.

Very

Very little attention has yet been applied to draining, and this principally confined to the cut-out bogs, which will repay this expense.

Marl and lime are excellent manures for this soil; the former is not very easily attainable, and the latter, which is so very powerful in these deep clays, is unhappily from ten to twelve miles distant. The stupidity of the peasants in the conveyance of this manure to their lands is extraordinary; they prefer carrying the stone in its raw state, which they are obliged to purchase, to the burning of it at the quarry, when three times the quantum of lime could be brought home for the same expense.

Kilns are numerous in the vicinity of the quarries, which they could readily hire, and have this valuable manure at a much cheaper rate; but their neglect in this particular can be only imputed to their love of money, which they cannot bear to part with; for they consider it a much greater loss and expense to pay for the load of stone, than the labour of their horse, and near two days work, which are lost bringing it home.

The favourite manure amongst them is ashes, as being the least expensively procured; they now very frequently burn the deep heavy bottom lands in summer, which they leave in heaps till spring, to mix with the dung for potatoes, and sometimes they plough this compost into a poor oat stubble.

But

But the effect of lime on such lands is extraordinary, in the rapid reclamation and total change of soil. The cost of the stone at the quarry, one shilling and a penny per ton, and from five to six shillings additional cost for drawing home. The expense of breaking and burning increases the charge very considerably, much above the means of a poor peasant, to allow him to give his lands the due proportion; they are necessarily stinted, but they find the greatest benefit even from the scanty supply they can afford. It is frequently strewed over with their hands when the crop is sowed, which, they are assured, assists it, and also prevents the several roots, which they often materially suffer from. Marle is partially found at the bottom of hills, and in the bogs: they remark that the crop sown on ground, which has been marled, is generally very weak, easily laid down in a bad harvest, and exceedingly prone to weeds; but they consider it good for grass lands, which in a lighter soil I have known marle to burn and exceedingly injure, though it might assist them if under tillage.

The cost of manuring and reclaiming an acre of ground here will fully amount to twelve pounds, over and above the value of the first year's crop; but even this well repays, as the soil after liming yields excellent crops, and is most durable for many years; with a little refreshment occasionally, it becomes most valuable and certain land, which no drought of season can materially injure.

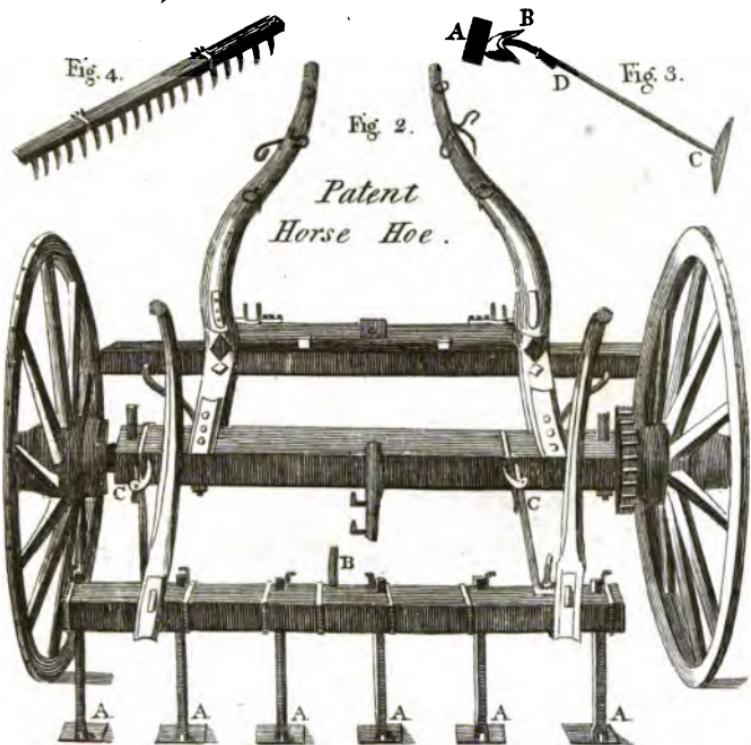
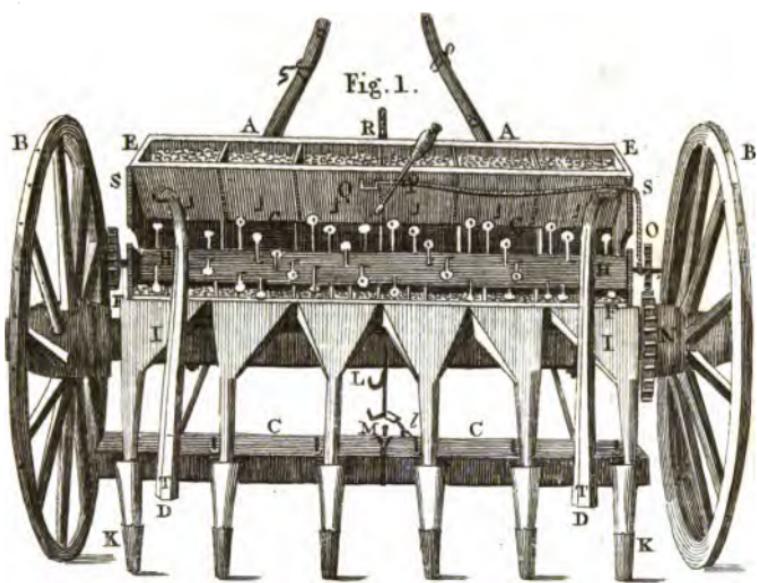
**ON DRILL-HUSBANDRY, THE CONNECTION OF TILLAGE
AND STOCK FARMING, COURSE OF CROPS, THEIR
MANAGEMENT, AND GENERAL REMARKS THEREON,**

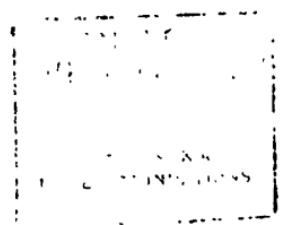
This mode of sowing grain, which is so rapidly coming into use, ought to meet every furtherance and encouragement; and where the soil can be managed with the drilling machine, the farmer should by all means procure it. Complicated as it appears in the annexed plate, which is an improvement on Cooke's patent drill machine, yet it only requires to be seen and examined, to convince us, that much ingenuity has been successfully exerted to render it more effective, and more simple than any, which has been hitherto invented.

For a particular explanation of this improved plan, and the directions for its use and management, I refer my readers to the conclusion of this volume, where it is given in the words of the inventor.

The great regularity and exactness, with which the work of this machine is performed, is a very strong recommendation to the drilling system in general, as it coincides with the great and general principle of economy and method, which is a leading one towards perfection in every art, and in none has it hitherto been
more

Cooke's Patent Drill Machine improved and simplified and
capable of being converted into a Horse Hoe.





more shamefully neglected, than in the important pursuit of agriculture. Whatever tends to rectify this mistake is highly desirable, and by this mode of husbandry the soil cannot be overcharged with grain, which is an error of twofold evil, as being also a waste of seed; nor in the other extreme is it sown with too scanty a portion, too light, or too heavy a moulding; in the same operation, by which the grain is left in the soil, it is sufficiently covered, an evident saving in labour; nor in the wettest seasons will corn be laid, which is sown after this mode.

The furrow, in which the grain is deposited, can be made to any depth, according to the nature of the soil; this is readily distinguished by observation on the depth from the surface, at which the coronal roots strike out in early vegetation. This remark holds good as to every mode of ploughing, and ought to be particularly attended to. The hoe, than which there is no machine yet invented of such great effect in the modern husbandry, comes here into full play; and if we only consider that the salts of the earth, which are the food of plants, are so plentifully applied to their roots at every operation of this instrument, which removes the exhausted soil, and supplies a new portion of revigorating matter, we must be sensible of its value and great importance.

In green crops, which are now so universally coming into repute, and on which the success of both stock and tillage husbandry so greatly depend, the hoe is the

main support. Tillage husbandry is also dependant on green crops, as they revigorate, after an exhausting corn crop, stock husbandry; as from them the surest and most luxuriant supply of food is procured in winter and spring: hence follows, that to be a tillage farmer he must have stock, and to be a stock farmer he must have tillage, and the great secret of good farming is to let those two pursuits be mutually interwoven; green crops are doubtless the sure dependence of their mutual success. The first and great consideration to a farmer must be to encrease his dunghill; this insures a valuable green crop, which meliorates and prepares the soil for the corn crop; the old mode of fallow is thus excluded, the shelter of the green crop producing in a greater degree the melioration of the soil, than the effects of the sun or the atmosphere on an exposed fallow, which some judicious farmers now deny to be of material service but the reverse. A very eminent agriculturist asserts, the more that the soil is ploughed in summer, the more is the vegetable food exhausted.

It seems now more generally to be understood and adopted, that two corn crops should not be in succession, and there is no occasion for fallow; a green crop will restore and revigorate what a corn crop has exhausted; so that a judicious intermixture is only requisite to keep the ground in heart, and in continual yielding, even to two or three crops of particular kinds in

in the one season, suited to particular soils, as clover, potatoes, &c.

No vegetable crop is more grateful in its return than the potatoe, with due culture; all the fertilizing effects of shade are produced, and it is now become of as great importance in the food of beasts, as it has been the main dependence of the food of man in this island. It would be impertinent for me, who have had but little to do with experimental farming, to offer any remarks on the culture of this valuable root; I would refer my reader to the ingenious Doctor Maunsell's experiments and hints, and only beg leave to observe, that whatever tends to multiply their produce is desirable, whether it is attained by shoots, by scooping, or by the various other experiments, which save so much food, that hitherto went to waste.

Doctor Maunsell is clearly in favour of laying strong shoots in drills, covered first with dung and then with clay, which latter is often applied as the stalk shoots up. This mode saves twelve barrels of twenty stone to the acre, which is the proportion of seed necessary; from these shoots on one acre one hundred barrels have been produced, and the parent potatoe neither hurt nor diminished. The Doctor advises, that as the farmer opens his potatoe hole for his own use or for market, the strong hale shoots only should be preserved, without crushing or spoiling them, and laid length ways on each other, covered with a little earth,

which will keep safe for a month in that state, and the vegetation thus promoted: and he says, if planted early in the year, and transplanted in March, they will yield a good crop of early potatoes in May, by which means, with a little dung, a second crop can be had the same year. How many millions of barrels of feed would thus be saved every year for the food of man and beast; how many millions of barrels increased, and, of course, what an addition to the wealth of the nation?

How rapidly is ground brought into heart by green crops?—Let us appropriate a certain portion of land in this husbandry for feeding stock in the house; the manure thus acquired will be sufficient to cover double the quantity of land the succeeding year, and the soil thus employed the last year is now in high vigour for a luxuriant corn crop. This is a method, which is pursued by Mr. Foster, whom I have spoken of in the preceding chapter, who thus makes a rapid and extensive improvement: the produce of manure from one acre of green crop highly manuring two acres the succeeding year, and so in proportion to any extent he pleases thus to occupy.

It will thus appear very manifest, that superior advantages result from stall-feeding than from permitting the stock to range their pastures; in green crops it is undeniable, that half the produce is wasted and trampled in feeding off the field; and it is very clear, that stock turned into grass lands in spring nip the blade so close,

close, that, if a hot summer succeeds, the roots of the grass are burned; but the superior *thrift*, in every sense of the word, and more particularly in its allusion to the better condition and improvement of cattle, is very evident, when we see them so much sooner prepared for market in the stall, than they are on the best pasturage; if they require the more attendance, is not that repaid tenfold in the value of their manure? and as thus they are sheltered from the winter's blast, so also are they from the summer's sun and flies, which annoy them so extremely.

Let us extend our considerations on this subject to the utmost, which is the food for milch cows; we find on vegetable crops, even on the potatoe itself, that the milk is surprisingly increased; and the confinement of milch cows in great cities throughout the year, during which time a new calved cow will give milk, and thrive so well, as to sell out at near fifteen per cent. higher price than she was originally purchased for with her calf at her foot, proves that constant housing is not detrimental.

Nor with the other animals, which constitute the food of man, and which the farmer prepares for market, as the sheep, and the hog, will a partial confinement be less desirable; comfortable recesses and a sufficiency of proper food will forward them much more than a range of pasture, and cut off the possibility of numerous losses, and casualties, to which they are exposed abroad. Without entering into the minutiae of the quantum of stock

of each kind, to be appropriated to the number of acres, which would be only a copy from many judicious authors, I pass to the next case, which is the management of the dunghill, that now so rapidly increases; the site of this heap should be a level plain, as being most favourable to fermentation, which ought to be most particularly attended to; a due degree of air and moisture promotes this effect, and too much of either will oppose it; thus, dung-pits, which are a reservoir for water, chill and destroy the fermentation, or the salts, which are produced from it. In forming the dunghill, care should be taken not to compress it too much, as this excludes the air; and a covering over the heap is often used by English farmers to hasten the fermentation, and also to prevent the natural moisture of the dunghill being evaporated by the atmosphere. Some are so exact in the management of the dunghill, as to erect a roof over the heap, and enclose it with walls to prevent waste, to pave the floor with several channels, leading to a cistern, which catches the moisture, with which they make various composts for their several occasions.

Doubtless, it is the business of the farmer to increase his dunghill by all means; the moisture, which flows from the heap, will quickly change many substances, as turf mould, earth, &c. to rich composts; and it is well known, there is no richer manure, (for some soils

the

the best of all) than turf mould, with which cattle have been littered.

Clover is a most valuable crop; the farmer, who sows wheat after it, will hardly wish for a further experiment: the soil is rendered particularly appropriated for this strong grain, and the crop is luxuriant and remarkably free from weeds, and some have affirmed is less liable to mildew, than the crop yielded after a summer's fallow. In the sowing of this crop, it has been incontrovertibly proved, that the earliest sown crops have the surest and most certain yielding; perhaps this remark may only hold good, as suited to the quality of the soil, or the temperature of the climate, which is much rather to be accounted for in its variations, by the elevation of the surface, or the surrounding natural causes, [as wood, water, &c. than that any material difference can take place in the narrow latitude of the country.

Vetches are a very revigorating crop; how little are they cultivated in Ireland, or their effects known, when in so fine a soil as the Queen's County possesses, I was there informed, they were considered rather as an exhausting crop, because some unfortunate casualties occurred to a spirited and judicious farmer, who introduced their culture. No crop so immediately renders a field a complete dunghill, or prepares it for any husbandry; after a wheat crop is taken up, the stubble

should

should have a little dung ploughed in, and winter vetches sown, which yield a fine supply of green food, and by the time of their consumption, the land is free for a crop of potatoes, &c. This valuable crop is also known by another distinction, that of tares, which, when sown in spring, bring the land into fine preparation for a crop of wheat the following autumn. Rape, cabbages, and turnips are most profitable vegetable crops, and in drained bog; or moor which has been previously drained, have been very luxuriant; and I have never seen moor laid down in greater heart, or a better crop of each, than of turnips and rye grass thereon, the soil having been well manured with a loamy limestone gravel.

Oats will, in every soil, yield abundantly after these crops, particularly in improved bog, which has produced many and successive crops of this grain, without any apparent diminution, and without any other manure, but what was introduced with the original green crop. What an encouragement is here for the reclamation of the extensive wastes of this soil, which could so easily be brought into great profit: and, after a long return of this grain, when let out to grass, what fine white clover does it naturally yield after lime, limestone gravel, burning, or other calcareous applications? Nor in the produce of the potatoe is it less grateful, and, in this particular, it effects a complete change in the seed of that vegetable, which is so necessary to be changed

changed to prevent the degeneration, which it certainly tends to, when successively sown in the same soil.

Hence follows a course of crops, which has been recommended for this country.

Potatoes,	Wheat,
Flax,	Vetches,
Potatoes,	Winter Barley,
Oats,	Potatoes.
Clover,	

Or in moory ground preparing for grass.

Potatoes,	Oats,
Oats,	Potatoes,
Do.	Grass feeds.

I omit turnips, rape, cabbage &c. because they have so little use here for these green crops, being scarcely at all disposed of for fattening stock, as must appear from the preceding sheets; but, should they chuse to cultivate rape for the seed, a mode of husbandry which would tell here, let the last crop of the first class be rape, and also be the substitute for the latter crop of potatoes in the second class.

In so small a portion as a farmer in this country now occupies, the land must, of course, be judiciously divided, so as to yield a little of each; a due economy and regard to this management would greatly facilitate method and regularity, which are here as much wanted,

as they are essentially requisite to successful farming; they create a taste for the pursuit of agriculture, and are the encouragement to its perfection; the management of the meadow must also come into due consideration, which must be assisted by surface dressings, but no richer manure of this description has yet been applied, than irrigation, or the admission of water to flow gently over the surface,

This hitherto neglected art in husbandry has been but of late years introduced amongst us, though its origin, in other countries, is very ancient. Nothing more valuable can be applied to a light dry soil;* if the after-grass is intended for sheep, great care must be observed, to put on that kind you intend for market; as quickly as they fatten on this grass, they should be sold off; for, after they are fat, they assuredly tend to rot; and for the same reason, if you intend your pasture for ewes and lambs in the summer, you must irrigate only in the winter months.

In ornamental improvements, the netting or paling in the flock must be observed, to preserve the plantations, and also that the grass may be eaten close, which in this season has a more rapid vegetation, and more quickly springs without exhausting the soil.

Any thing, that produces shade, will tend to assist the meadow; for this purpose potatoe stalks are a good manure,

* See the Queen's County Report, Page 77.

nure, and the dust from malt has been known to be a much more revigorating substance than stable dung, though its virtues are exhausted after a year or two at the most. One observation should be attended to, to preserve the hay as green and as fappy as possible, and to draw it home to the haggard as soon as it is saved: thus the quantum of hay is saved, which now goes to waste in the tops and bottoms of tramp cocks, the ground they scald and burn is preserved, and the fine after-grass is saved, which is generally trampled and cut to pieces in its best vigour, where the hay is usually drawn off after the harvest is completely got up.

The smaller the size of the grass cocks, the quicker is the operation of saving the hay; by frequent turning, rather inside out, and occasionally joining two in one, the sap and colour is much better preserved, than by spreading it out and bleaching it, which is the most effectual method to destroy both.

No crop requires more particular attention in this county than that of flax, which is their main support, indeed on which their very existence depends; it is from this the rent is had, and from this the stock of provisions is imported, which, doubtless, they have not a sufficiency of at home, of any article, potatoes alone excepted. Nor is there any crop so injudiciously cultivated; it has been so from its earliest introduction here, and will continue so, as long as the weaver embraces

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the business of the farmer, to the manifest injury of each of these several, and should be, *distinct* callings.

I have endeavoured, in the beginning of the twelfth chapter of the Monaghan Survey, to point out the great defects in practice in that county in flax husbandry; they exactly apply here, and I recommend the reading of that part, which is selected from the most experienced writers, and which are so strictly consonant to reason. I cannot but repeat it here, that it is a gross and evident bigotry alone, which weds us to the ridiculous custom of destroying our seed, and thus trusting, every year, for our supply to nations, with whom we are at issue in the linen manufacture, who doubtless will keep the best materials for their success at home, and send us the refuse; besides, we depend on the uncertain elements for the safety of that seed, and import it at double the cost we could ourselves rear it; and if we were more exact in our flax dressing, the very crop we rear for seed would also yield the finest thread, which is incontrovertibly proved in Flanders, and the Low-Countries, where they save all the seed, and make from the flax, which afforded that supply, the finest laces, which we nor any other nation ever yet produced any thing equal to.

How great, then, is the loss to the nation on this one article; how considerable an acquisition would it be to the poor man of this country, to explode it, when

the

the seed of his flax plot, if saved, would yield after the rate of ten pounds value per acre?

In countries, which enjoy the advantages from this valuable article, the several stages of flax-dressing are the employments of several distinct trades. The farmer never meddles in the dressing; to effect the culture properly is sufficient for him, and, in hackling alone they have from three to four operators, who are each confined to a particular degree of fineness; thus the finest of all passes through the hands of four hacklers at least, and sometimes more.

In a county so much under tillage as Cavan, and divided into such very small farms, when a clover patch is so desirable for the peasant's cow, it is a favourable circumstance, that flax and clover agree so well together, though the intermixture of their culture is so neglected. In farming societies, a small premium offered for this desirable improvement would soon shew the great benefit which would result from it, and would ensure its general adoption.

This consideration leads to that of the miserable state of the peasant's hovel, which it ought to be one of our first endeavours to improve, as it not only prevents the unhappy calamity of fever, which no season, of latter years, has yet depressed, and which has raged with great pestilence in this country: but also, by making the cabin neat, cleanly, and comfortable, it endears his

home

home to the peasant, and may serve to check the mania for emigration, which has had such a general influence through this province, and no where more strongly than here. How easily is this desirable improvement obtained, by the authority of the landlord, who should make it a binding clause in his lease? But as the hopes of reward will more generally prevail, than obligation, (even to our own interest,) this should also be the concern of a farming society, and very liberal premiums held out for such improvements, which would create an emulation productive of health and civilization.

If a due portion of their subscriptions were appropriated to such improvements, to parents rearing their children to industry, and to the furtherance of morality; then would of course follow a taste for the improvement of agriculture, which they will never think of until they are made comfortable at home, and shewn the way from acquired experience, to earn a competence and independence for themselves.

It is such desirable improvements, which will produce a respectable yeomanry, and truly civilize the ignorant peasant of Ireland; it is such, which will teach him the value of the constitution, whose dearest privileges he will then fully enjoy, and will more rapidly reform his mind virtually to due obedience and respect for the laws, than the terror and strength of military force, which now alone preserves us from the rapine and licentiousness

licentiousness of superstition, ignorance, disaffection, and poverty.

Melancholy as is this picture, yet it is evident that a quick and rapid reform could be produced, were it seriously undertaken.

It is indeed worthy the most exalted consideration, and is the duty and interest of every landed proprietor to promote, by every possible means; the resources and wealth of the nation are great, and when the war required voluntary contributions, as remarkably liberal was the public spirit. In no instance could it be more eminently useful than in this, in which we should, doubtless, have a blessing from that providence, which delighteth in works of charity, and prospers the humane purposes of man. Do not these reflections lead to the desirable wish, that the nations of the earth would rather seek to improve their agriculture, and to better the condition of their poor, than to extend their conquests, by which each of these important concerns must be neglected, and which tend to their general destruction?

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

The population of this district is very great; few town-lands, which have not from twelve to fifteen families,

amilies, and some from twenty to thirty ; and six souls may be rated to each house.

The Roman Catholics have in numbers a considerable majority.

The Presbyterians are also very strong, and those of the established church less considerable of any. I have never seen a country, where there are so many religious sects ; in the town of Cootehill are no less than six different houses of worship, besides the parish church. The vicinity of this district has many villages, or rather market towns, where yarn and webs are the principal, or rather the only commodities. Provisions very seldom appear for sale, as the weavers till just enough of land to afford them potatoes, oats, and the flax plot. These articles of food are their best fare, with buttermilk ; the butter and the hog are now sent to market, which, before the war, were consumed at home, but are now luxuries, which are only tasted on particular festivals.

The miserable effects of the late years of dearth are very visible in the dress of the lower order, who are wretchedly clad, and their children almost entirely naked ; white and blue frizes are worn by the men, and the women are more commonly clad in cottons than in stuffs, which have been so flimsily made of latter years, as have almost entirely ruined that trade throughout the nation.

The

The prices of their frizes, from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per yard, and they are very coarse. The price of labour varies, as there is so little demand for hired men in the field. A labourer, for a day or two, is sufficient to assist the small farmer for his season's work, for which he receives from sixpence halfpenny to one shilling and a penny per day, with his diet; the gentleman, who has constant work for a labourer, pays the daily labourer or spalpeen from ten pence to thirteen pence per day, through the year. This seems to be the *appellation* of a daily labourer throughout Ireland, which argues the antiquity of this distinction from the cottier, and perhaps may be thus accounted for.

The custom of hiring labourers to assist in the work of the farm was doubtless practised by the most ancient, as well as the present race of farmers; but we learn, that with them these assistants were only called in during the cutting of the harvest, as each denomination of land had always as many men allotted by the chief of the district, to reside thereon, as were sufficient to cultivate it; and I have seen the remarks of some antiquaries, who say, so attentive were the natives to this division of the farmers, that a law existed, binding their pastors to keep strict account of the increase of males on each town-land, whom, when arrived at a certain age, the pastors were obliged to report, as being eligible to be sent to reside in a neighbouring land, which might be deficient in its number of working men, a casualty

which often occurred, the country being almost in continual warfare; and he asserts, so careful were the legislators of the importance of the due regards to agriculture, and that on it depended the wealth of the state, that by this law relating to husbandry, the women were obliged to work in the field, when war or other necessity of their chief called their men from home.

In the Irish language *spal* is the scythe or the sickle.

The native *husbandman* was thence named the *spalp*, which signified the harvest cutter, and this man was considered to have acquired the whole art of husbandry, and held a sort of distinction over the other labourers. When the press of harvest season arrived, and from the uncertainty of the weather they found it necessary to call in assistants or other spalps, they suffered the younger or less experienced farmer to handle the sickle, at whose first introduction a particular and pious ceremony was performed, and before its celebration he dared not to presume to handle the sickle, and he was termed the *spalpeen*, or the young and unexperienced harvest-cutter. *Een*, in the Irish language, at the final of a word, always signifies small, or rather contemptible, and to this day the spalpeen has that signification, even with those, who do not understand the language. The working husbandmen of Ireland are universally distinguished, as the cottier, or the spalpeen; the wages and privileges of the former fully double those of the latter, and it is well known, that herds of

men, called spalpeens, regularly come every harvest from the counties of Cork, and Kerry, and parts of Connaught, into the corn counties of Leinster; to reap the harvest, and the farmers entirely depend on them. In this country there are no cottiers to the farmers, but the manufacturing cottiers, and with the gentry a few labourers have the usual privileges of a cow's graft and hay, house, garden, and turf-bog, and seven pence or eight pence per day through the year; this man lives comfortably with the industry of his wife and family. So great is the demand for labour during the turf-cutting, as the bleach-greens, which are numerous, consume so much fuel, that all the women and children are employed in this season; the former will earn from six to eight pence, and the latter from three pence to six pence per day.

The tithes cannot be said to be at all oppressive here, except in the mode of collecting, which passing through so many hands, and leaving a profit to each, makes it severe on the poor man, whom the collector too generally extorts from. The glebe of Dromgoon parish, which is naturally not a bad soil, accords with the miserable reports of glebe lands; no clergyman resides in this parish, nor one inhabitant of the established church.

The average of the tithe of the oat crop, which is the only corn crop cultivated, rates at six shillings per acre; flax six pence for any quantity, the same for hay; potatoes are tithe free.

The beverage of the lower order in this county has been always whiskey, of which they distil large quantities, but mostly without licence.

No county in Ireland has been more notorious for this illicit trade than Cavan; their stills and worms are made of tin, which every itinerant tinker can manufacture; perhaps the whole apparatus will be defrayed by the duty paid on one day's work, and they little value the surprisal of a revenue officer, as so slight a capital sets them up again. When they malt their corn, which is all of oats, a bag full is thrown to steep in a bog hole; it is easily concealed during the growing of the corn, as is before explained in the 7th chapter; and the county abounding with corn-kilns to dry their oats for grinding into meal, they run no risque in drying the grain or in grinding it.

The corn-kiln seems peculiar to this county, is a semicircular hovel thatched, and has an hole to admit the fire below, like to the eye of a lime-kiln: in the centre are two beams, on which a hurdle is thrown; a straw mat is placed thereon, to spread the corn on, to which the heat ascends; two small apertures are opposite each other in the sides of the hovel to draw the air; one of these is always closed, when fire is applied.

In the late scarce years the private distillation in these parts was checked, as every man made it a point of duty to give information where he knew the stills were; but the last plentiful harvest has again encouraged them:

them: I lately saw in Coote-hill no less than nine private stills, which were seized by one active officer in an evening's ramble, in that vicinity, and which was no uncommon thing there. The roads of this district little differ from the general report of the county, which is bad, very bad indeed; this is accounted for in some degree by the materials being so poor for road making; but a considerable share of blame is, I think, attached to the allowing the collectors of the public cess to run into arrears and confusion, and also to the mode of assessment, as the Grand Jury presents only during the summer assizes, when the poor man is poorest, at the only season when he is probably buying his provisions and flax. It would doubtless be much better to present at both assizes, and make the largest assessment, when the peasant can best spare the money.

The soil of this district varies from cold deep argil, heavy and stiff yellow clays, to a light, dry, and rather mountainous tilly stratum, covering a quarry of hard blue and green stone, which is called whin-stone, and is frequently met with in great blocks. Strong indications of lead are found in this description of soil; and on the town-land of Mayo, the estate of Charles Coote, Esq. is a mine, which has been proved to have been exceedingly rich, and was worked about fifty years ago with good success: but the proprietor at that time, perhaps mistaking it for a gold mine, was too sanguine of its value, and chose rather to shut it up, than

to take the one-fourth of the ore, ready smelted on the spot, from two English miners of reputed respectability, who came from Falmouth to propose for it, jointly with a wealthy merchant of the city of Dublin, and whose proposals now lie before me. The shafts, which had been sunk, were framed and covered over, to prevent cattle from falling in, and since it has remained so.

The main vein lies in a slaty or rather gravelly rock, and has no clay about it; but between it and the rock of each side the ore is a soft soapy substance, in colour resembling the ochre, that skinners use, through which a stick may be easily thrust, and without meeting any opposition. The water springing through this substance is of the like colour, and in the heart of this paste is another substance much firmer, and of a grey colour, which the miners call spar; when burnt it resembles brimstone, and has a very sulphureous smell.

In sinking one of the shafts on the hill in this vicinity, for at that time many tons of ore were raised, they struck on a rich vein of copper ore, at thirty-six feet depth from the surface; some of this ore was since assayed, and proved to contain about nine per cent of copper, and highly impregnated with sulphur and verdigrase. The ore was in shape rather of angular points, and until broken resembled a stone. Copper pyrites are frequently found in this town-land, but very poor near the surface.

When

When the rocks and boulders of the hard whinstone appear, the soil is frequently siliceous, and argillite on the eastern aspect, and here are the strongest mineral appearances; this vicinity would well deserve a close and minute mineralogical inspection. As the duty is taken off the copper since the act of Union, it will doubtless be no small stimulus to the working of the copper mines of Ireland, which it hitherto so considerably retarded.

A slate quarry is also on this estate, where some very durable and excellent slates have been raised, very near the surface, and at a small expense; they are sold at the quarry for one guinea per thousand, and a considerable demand for them: I have sent some of them to the Dublin Society, which may vie with some slates imported. A little more attention to the value of our own internal resources, and less of the mania for foreign materials, and we may perhaps find ourselves abundantly supplied as well at home.

There is no navigation in this county, though a very fine and important line presents itself through this district, which will doubtless be adopted, if ever the long projected line of connection takes place between the Shannon and Lough Erne, and the line continued from thence to the Atlantic, by a navigation from Belleek to Ballyshannon.

In this district the line is very favourable, from Ballybay to Coote-hill, for seven miles, which is the distance

tance asunder; there is an extensive lake, or rather deep river, for nearly the whole way, and one cut of about half a mile would make it perfectly safe and navigable, cutting through the weir of Coote-hill mill; one lock would be sufficient for a still navigation, and it would also have the good effect of saving several hundred acres of good meadow land from floods, which are now under water eight months in the year, and at best times yield but a stolen crop of hay. This extensive lake is joined by the river Nappa, about two or three miles below Cootchill, and would serve as a capital head level; following this course to Belturbet, about sixteen miles, the line is obviously pointed out, and at this latter town, which I have before spoken of, it enters Lough Erne. From thence to Belleek, above fifty miles distant, this famous lake washes the shores of several counties, which this navigation would so immediately benefit. I have heard it proposed by a gentleman, who seemed to have taken great pains in exploring this line, to have the rock at Belleek cut down for ten feet, that is, reducing the level of the lake so many feet plumb water; by this means a great strand would be gained, on which he proposed the canal should be cut. To pass an opinion on this proposal would be presumptuous, as I am totally ignorant of the line without this county; but one good effect would accrue, that many thousand acres of shore would be gained, and the best meadows in the county secured, whose crops

crosses are now but casual: the length of this line is said to be twenty miles from Belleek to Enniskillen, where the floods do immense damage, and by this means a passage, for those waters would be effected, that are now so destructive. We should also take into account the shores of the many islands, which, I think, are rated at about three hundred and sixty-five, which are in the bosom of this lake; and doubtless a considerable quantity of land would be acquired, which might have one good effect, of affording employment to the multitude of emigrants, who annually abandon their country for America.

It is estimated, that one lock would only be requisite, on this line of fifty miles, from Belturbet to Belleek, by the cutting of the rock. The disadvantages in this case to be examined, are the destruction of the beauty of the lake, and also of the present line of navigation to Enniskillen; but this is of little other account, than for the conveyance of turf fuel, which only can be effected when the wind blows in one particular point; for, with any burthen they cannot work against the stream; and as to the destruction of the beauty of the lake, it should be of little moment, in comparison with the important advantages, which would be obtained, were it judged expedient to adopt it.

Nor would it be a work of that magnitude or impracticability, which might appear at first view; through the
arch

arched rock at Belleek the water of the Erne now flows; by widening and lowering this arch, the matter would be soon effected, and the lake lowered. This rock is limestone, and shivered by nature into layers and joints, of about nine inches distance, so that it would be most easily worked.

An immediate intercourse would, by this navigation, (not to insist in cutting the rock, which would certainly be the less expensive mode), be established with the principal parts of the nation, and the communication opened direct in the North, as well as the south-west.

The waters of this district abound with immense pike, and in the rivers are excellent trout, perch, and eel; but they are well supplied with salmon from Ballyshannon, with cod-fish from Carlingford, and herrings from Dundalk; the finest cod-fish is sold in the season, from three halfpence to two pence per pound.

There is no system of education here; nor can it be expected, when so little attention is paid to agriculture, that there are any farming societies. Manufacture is wholly confined to the linen trade; the high rate of discount between bank notes and guineas, (as in specie every article is paid for) has occasioned a heavy tax on the trade, and daily increases, as gold becomes scarce. The emigrating mania, which of late has raged so universally, has considerably contributed to the dearth of specie, as each adventurer turned his property into money,

ney, which he took with him; for, latterly, the exportation of linen to that country was venturesome and discouraging. The increase of this scarcity of gold will at length have the best effect to the trade, in my opinion, as they must ultimately trade with bank notes: so that, though the imposition is at present a severe tax, its extravagance will soon work its own destruction. Much of this county is under absentee property, and so long as the landlords and their agens insist on their rents in specie, it will retard this desirable object to the linen trade, which is, at present, struggling on very unequal terms with every other branch in Ireland.

The mills of this county are numerous, and of three descriptions; of the first, or corn mill, every estate has one for the tenantry to grind their oats, and they are bound, under a severe penalty of five shillings per bushel, to grind their corn thereat, and pay the sixteenth grain of toll or mouter. There are numerous small mill-sites, and of course many such mills are erected, where they grind for the twenty-fourth grain, or a third less mouter; the hardship on the tenant is obvious, and the difference so considerable, that many people will send their corn several miles distant to one of the free mills. The rent of the mills rates from ten pounds to one hundred and fifty pounds per annum, according to the value of the concern, and the supply of water. In drying the oats, preparatory for grinding, two pence per barrel

barrel is paid. The second description of mills are those for flax, two of which are in this vicinity, and the proprietors earn from thirty to sixty pounds per annum, which sum is shared between the proprietor and the men, who work in this concern. One of those mills, if well attended to, will beetle and scutch as much flax in one day, as can be thus worked by twenty-five or thirty expert hands.

The machinery is so simple and cheap, it is wonderful that many more of these mills are not erected, when so great labour and loss of time is saved.

The third description of mill are the bleach mills, which are very numerous; in the parish of Dromgoon, no less than fifty thousand pieces of linen cloth can be finished in one season. In these mills are all the machinery of the wash mill, rubbing boards, and beetling engines, drove by water, with connections to the boiling-houses and drying lofts.

Plantations are only encouraged or attempted by men of fortune; the fences are so extremely bad, it is impossible to preserve them from cattle; the lower orders are cruelly averse to this ornamental and valuable improvement, and frequently destroy young trees, and quickset hedges, before they are a month in the ground, fearful lest such improvements might raise the value of their lands, which are set on short leases; timber, however,

ever, is not scarce, as extensive woods are in the neighbourhood.

Fir rates, at from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per foot: ash, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. oak and beech, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d., and, if a long and good shaft, to 5s. per foot, small building timber for cabins, and for farming utensils, rate much cheaper in proportion. Foreign timber comes very high, as at least six pence per foot is added to the merchant's price, for carriage. Excepting the vicinity of towns, and bleach greens, turf fuel is plenty, and very cheap; according to the demand, the price varies from three to five pounds per acre; in a scarce neighbourhood, and at Rahain in the parish of Killdrumsheridan near Coote Hill, it is so high as sixteen pounds per acre.

When they cut out their bogs, and level the surface, the land becomes more valuable than any they have, which they manure plentifully with ashes. There cannot be said to be any waste ground in this district, for the farms are so small, and the population so great, every patch is brought in with the spade, which is inaccessible to the plough.

The great want seems to be, that of employment for the youth of both sexes, for the greater part of the year, particularly in the winter season: until twelve or fourteen years of age, they are entirely naked; this
loudly

loudly calls for reform. The children are not prone to idleness, but they cannot get employment; few families there are, but have children enough to wind the quills for the looms, at which work they can earn from four to ten pence per day.

The English language is entirely spoken, indeed very few of the lower order understand the Irish tongue. There are no remarkable old buildings in this district, but almost every hill has a Danish fort, and on several of them are yet seen the vestiges of a fortification; these would be beautiful situations to have planted in this county, whose surface is so extremely undulating.

The rate of their weights and measures differs considerably from those of the neighbouring counties; meal is sold by the cwt. which is one hundred and twenty pounds: butter, the like proportion: oats, fourteen stones to the barrel, of fourteen pounds to the stone.

Malt, twelve do. do.

Bere, sixteen do. do.

Wheat, twenty do. do.

Flax is sold by the stone, and has sixteen pounds.

The weight of the barrel of potatoes fluctuates more than all others, as in many neighbouring parishes their barrel varies from twenty to twenty eight, to forty and forty-eight stones; but they are commonly sold by bulk in the fack: the balance, in this case, is clearly against the purchaser, as the seller doubtless is not ignorant

norant of how much weight his sack will contain: this fraud ought surely to be redressed; it, however, shews how well stocked this country is with this article, and how little of it comes to market, or the sale would not be so neglected, or held in so despicable estimation.

The town of Cootehill, which is the best town in the barony, or, in the sale of its markets, the most considerable in the county, stands nearly on the verge of Monaghan, and is on the estate of Charles Coote Esquire, and immediately joins his demesne at Bellamont forest. This town, but for its valuable linen market, would long since have been extinguished, from the total neglect of its late proprietor, the Earl of Bellamont, though, doubtless, for the important reason I have asserted, and for combining causes, it should and might be the best inland town in Ulster. The advantages, which Cootehill possesses, seem now to be truly appreciated by the present proprietor, who has already improved it with several very handsome houses, and the old leases being extinct, the tenants are obliged to build after an adopted plan, and meet every reasonable encouragement; neat shambles have been last year erected, and a market-house is now building.

The vicinity being entirely destitute of quarry, and the clay yielding bricks of the best quality, it becomes

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an easy matter, in observing uniformity, to make this town very handsome. An excellent inn has also been fitted up, and supplied with post-chaises, a convenience which was here materially wanted; when such an establishment is completed at Ballyborough, of which it is shamefully destitute, the road from Dublin to Cootehill will be well accommodated.

The weekly sale of linens in this market is estimated to average four thousand pounds sterling, but the webs principally are sheetings, and with this town no market in Ireland can vie in this trade. Buyers from all the linen markets of Ulster steadily frequent Coote-hill market. As to the laws respecting the linen trade, there is no place where they are more rigorously observed, or an infringement more severely punished.

The demesne lands of this vicinity are very beautiful; the extensive view of Bellamont Forest conveys every idea of magnificence, which so spacious a demesne can possess in the natural disposition of the grounds, and the undulation of the surface, and these irregularities create a thousand charms in the change of the shade, from the extensive groves, which have so great a variety, and produce such pleasing effects; but I shall have to speak more minutely of this subject, in the close of this chapter.

About one mile from Coote-hill, in the demesne of Ashfield, the seat of Theophilus Clements Esquire, which was planted, and highly adorned by the late

Colonel

Colonel Clements, and an excellent house built. In wood and water this seat is very well furnished: the young plantations have thriven admirably, and their effect is most pleasing and happy. The grounds, like those of many in this country, are but in a neglected state of cultivation. About the same distance is Anna-lee, the seat of the Rev. Doctor Keatinge; in point of situation it is unrivalled; the lands are in excellent heart, and shew judicious care and management: two miles further is Tullavin, the seat of Wm. Moore, Esq. This demesne has also been well planted, and on which is some very fine full-grown timber; a better attention has been paid to agriculture, and no where in this county are such excellent fences, admirably well quicked, and the hedge-rows planted with forest trees. The house is but a cottage on the ruins of an old castle, which with the adjoining shrubbery presents the neatest appearance, but Mr. Moore is preparing to build a capital mansion, corresponding with the value of this beautiful and well improved demesne.

An extensive garden of about four acres has been lately inclosed with a very good and lofty stone wall lined with brick. This garden is most elegantly laid out, and the best attention paid to it of any in the county; the fruit trees are in the highest perfection. A thick screen of young timber protects it from the North and East winds, which blow here keen and severe. Within this demesne are many Danish forts,

which are now beautifully planted, and the young trees have well shot up. The effects of these clumps in the midst of the fields are sufficient to shew, with what little expense and care so much of this neglected country might be brought to profit and beauty.

A rapid river runs at the foot of the demesne, and is the same I have spoken of in the line of navigation; here the Nappa and the Annalee rivers unite, and thence flow to Belkurbet. The fences and inclosures on this demesne would conspicuously appear, and deserve the highest reputation in the most improved county in Ireland. How considerably must the effect be pleasing here, where is such a total neglect of this most important concern, and the wild surrounding commonage, for it deserves no better distinction, highly serves as a foil to the beauties of such improved and capital inclosures?

About one mile further on the Cavan road is Rakeny, the charming and antique seat of Henry Clements, Esq. which yet gives a lively idea of the grand disposition of demesne lands and improvements in more ancient times, and which appearances are as yet carefully preserved. The happy choice of plantation grounds is entirely favourable to the course of the river, and the great supply of water, with the rapidity of the stream, has found other courses, which after meandering through the plantations have cut out small islands, and unite again with the streams of the parent river.

A communication

A communication is preserved through all these plantations, by Chinese and rustic bridges, which are thrown across the stream, and the walks neatly gravelled; the views of the cascades, and the sound of their waters re-echoed through these groves, which present such a variety of shade, with the fragrance of the wood-flowers along the walks, convey the most grateful and pleasing sensations.

I must here observe a most excellent plan of roofing, which covers one of the ornamental cottages in this demesne; the timber of the roof projects about sixteen inches beyond the wall of the house, and consequently is built of frame work; the thatch projects, of course, as much more from the timber, and the whole serves as a complete *parapluie* to the house, which cannot receive any wet. The house is all frame work, lathed and plastered within and without, and though built above seventeen years has not yet the least appearance of damp or injury, and is as warm as any brick, stone, or mud walls I have ever seen. In this demesne are three gardens, which are all well supplied, and one of them has the old terrace and other antique ornaments.

Nor has Mr. Clements been less attentive to the reclaiming of his lands; forty acres of bog have been lately capitally drained, and the main cut is twelve feet by fourteen; this promises to be most excellent ground; by widening and deepening the river much bottom

meadow has been recovered and drained, and is now the soundest sheep-walk, and the most fertile ground in the parish; nor in sheep-walk only is it occupied, for cows are here fattened to five or six cwt.

The mansion on this demesne is very old and low, situate in a vale, between the shelter of woods and hills; it a very long and spacious building, entirely corresponding with the system of the day when it was erected; to which is annexed every suitable office in distinct and separate square courts, well inclosed.

The small plantations contiguous to this demesne, for which Mr. Piers received the Dublin Society's premium, are but in poor and ruinous order; and his nursery, which was established for the sale of young trees, is now discontinued.

The Danish forts are numerous in this vicinity; not many years ago, when one of them was preparing for plantations, above one thousand pounds worth of gold coin was found, and also a large gold *fibula* buried in an iron pot. The nearest house of note, or castle, at this time was in the mean village of Ballinacarig, of which there is now scarce a vestige, though it is recorded to have been a spacious building, and surrounded with a fortification, comprising a fosse, towers, and bastions.

The country from Coote-hill to the bounds of the Barony may be valued at 30s. per acre, some of it is set much higher; very little or none of this district has been

been under wheat culture : Mr. Clements has attempted it with success, and cleared seventy-five pounds from two and an half acres, but this was in the scarce season, when that grain had so high a price. The oat acre yields twelve barrels of fourteen stone, from twenty-two stones of seed. Of barley, four-rowed, twenty barrels has been the produce, and of potatoes the most abundant return. So excellent is this soil for this valuable crop, that from six to eight guineas per acre will be easily had for potatoe ground, which is very high in this district. Meadow is very seldom set ; the hay is sold in the cock in bulk, and may be rated at the average of 50s. per ton. Flax ground will set for eight guineas per acre.

In the houses through all this country the linen manufacture is carried on, and few of them are without two or three looms employed.

Bog is however very scarce, and sets at eight guineas per acre, and all in this vicinity will soon be exhausted ; fuel, of course, is very dear.

The parish of Kill is now divided ; the late division is called Ashfield, where a new and very neat church has been lately built by Mr. Clements of Ashfield, and to which are annexed twenty acres of glebe. To the old parish of Kill three hundred acres of glebe are subjoined. From Rakenny to Clones, an excellent bridge crosses the river, and the roads are in tolerable repair.

South

South of Coote-hill lies Bellgoon, the seat of Thos. Brunker, Esq. The fences here are well quicked and inclosed; a considerable tract of land has been well reclaimed and well improved; a very excellent family house has been erected on an elevated and commanding site, and on the bleach-grounds adjoining this gentleman has expended considerable sums in mills, which are well supplied with water. The inhospitable glebe beyond the river is capable of yielding much profit, were it intelligible hands, and also could afford considerable ornament to this demesne. I have already had occasion to make honourable mention of Mr. Brunker's indefatigable and happy exertions in draining, in the Monaghan Survey, which have also been pursued here with the like success.

About a mile further is the seat of Thomas Powell, Esq. where the linen manufacture is also considerably and extensively engaged in.

I shall now conclude this baronial survey, with a more particular account of Bellamont forest.

This grand demesne contains above one thousand acres of land, nearly five hundred of which are covered with woods of full-grown timber, which encompass lakes of great beauty; and were the area of these extensive sheets of water to be taken into account, a very considerable portion of acres, which they cover, would be annexed to the return.

The

The whole of this immense range of ornamental grounds are inclosed by a thick screen, and a particular care has been had to preserve every appearance consonant to so spacious an inclosure, and all confined ideas were abandoned in their formation.

Nor can there be conceived a surface of such various undulation, or more pleasing inequalities for the choice of plantations, which, with the happy combination of water, and extensive prospects, are so strikingly picturesque, and beautifully disposed for the highest finish of ornamental improvements.

The venerable groves of oak crowning the summits of conical hills, which are overtopped by the more elongated, and almost mountainous range, clothed with the lofty pine, afford the most pleasing contrast in such varied shades, and are reflected in the spacious lake, which waters the borders of those woods.

Remarkably happy for this sublime view, the site of the mansion was chosen, and on the opposite side the prospect is as rich and captivating, furnished with all the sylvan scenery and magnificent decorations of Dawson-grove, which are highly enlivened by the hospitable flags of the proprietor of that princely demesne, which splendidly wave over his charming improvements.

There cannot be two demesnes, which more happily unite, or more reciprocally contribute to the beauties of each other; and, as the view of either mansion is completely shut out from the other, the whole immense

range

range of improvements and spacious woods, extensive lakes, and elegant plantations, would to a stranger appear as the one demesne.

From the front of the house of Bellamont Forest, though all the charming prospect is presented, it is rather *mal-*apropos**, that the principal and very grand suite of rooms are confined to, and lighted from the rere, where the water-views, with which this demesne abounds, are entirely shut out, on which account some connoisseurs are of opinion, that the house is not exactly in the best situation. This mansion is built of brick, with a portico of cut stone after the Doric order, supported by four pillars more plain than embellished, and elevated on a flight of fourteen steps, thirty feet wide.

The casing of the window frames is also of cut stone, to correspond with the portico; and the centre window of each side of the house, (which is a regular square), is arched at top, and ornamented with light pillars of cut stone.

The house appears from the exterior view to have three flights of apartments, though it has two floors only.

The entrance from the portico is a lofty hall, thirty three feet by thirty, which is ornamented with statuary in regular niches; the study and breakfast parlour are at diagonal extremities, as are the two flights of stairs, which are concealed by doors, and immediately opposite the hall-door is the saloon of the like dimensions
of

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

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of the hall: the walls of this very beautiful apartment are adorned with some excellent portraits, and a full length picture of the late Earl, in his robes of the Order of the Bath, and a corresponding one of the Connells of Bellamont, both painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The likenesses are extremely well preserved, and the painting esteemed as very good; and in this apartment is one of the best historical pictures, which Ireland can produce, the subject being the suicide of Dido, in which all the figures are at full length, supposed to have been executed by Raphael. Indeed, every thing in this fine picture commands admiration, and the different passions, which that extraordinary catastrophe must have created in the court of that queen, are happily executed; though the poet's beautiful description is, in most respects, very strikingly represented, yet the artist has a little deviated from the exact delineation we should expect from Virgil's description, but perhaps has not, in this instance, exceeded the licence, to which the painter is entitled, and which would doubtless not be adopted by so incomparable a judge as Raphael, if he was not sensible of its superior effect. This picture was purchased in Italy by the late Earl's father, for one thousand five hundred guineas, and was esteemed a great bargain. Several other very capital paintings, as also some very fine pieces of statuary and valuable antiques, were also purchased by that gentleman; and he had scarcely furnished this mansion therewith, when an unfortunate fire

fire, which consumed the house, destroyed them all, except this, one picture. The chimney-pieces, which are also Italian and very valuable, were preserved, as they fortunately had not been put up. The eating-parlour and drawing-room, at the opposite extremes of the saloon, are of exactly the like dimensions, and enriched with pillars; all these principal rooms are very lofty, and the ceilings are highly embellished with stucco.

That a superb appearance might be preferred in the luxuries of these apartments, the rest of the house is sacrificed, and in the centre floor are two small rooms only, which are over the small study and breakfast-parlour; they are very low, and serve as dressing-rooms.

The attic story has a good suit of dormitories, but they are also low; the fine prospects these suits of rooms command are the most to recommend them; indeed the whole house shews the folly of ostentation in the lower apartments, which has quite spoiled every other room. This mansion cannot, therefore, be justly called a good family house; nor can it be said to be as extensive a mansion as is suitable to so splendid and spacious a demesne. Its figure being a square is also hostile to the appearance it should command, and opposes any improvement of the addition of wings, which, if of another plan, might yet be added to a happy and pleasing effect.

The cellars and servants apartments were, until the late rebellion, entirely out of sight, from the exterior view, as the area was arched, flagged, and grated, which

which considerably added to the correctness of the style of the architecture; but it was at that time judged expedient to take this away, and open the area as a defence to the house. From these lower apartments is a very capital subterraneous passage to the offices, long enough to bring fuel, &c. to the house on carts; this passage winds round the great range of offices and farm-yard, which are distributed in large square courts; amongst these is an excellent riding-house, and a very spacious arched stable. The whole are concealed from the view of the house, being erected under cover of a hill, which is thickly planted with full grown timber; this site was judiciously chosen, and the design altogether very well executed. The woods of this demesne are the vestige of the ancient forest of the country, and this place is famous for having been the principal residence of the O'Reilly's, who were formerly the lords of the county of Cavan, then distinguished by the denomination of *Brefny*; tracts of these woods were severally cut out since, at different periods, and again coppiced up, but one plot shews to have survived many centuries. In this the oak is the only tree, whose vigour seems not to have decayed with his years, and here are some of the finest and grossest of this timber which I have seen:

This noble tree, of all other timber the most valuable, is likewise of all the most generous in rural scenery, and branches here with a luxuriance, which creates the happiest effect, and furnishes the spacious lakes with reflected beauty.

Diamond.

Diamond-hill, situate at nearly the extremity of this demesne, and bounded by a spacious lake, is a very lofty eminence, which is richly ornamented with timber, and comprises all the beauties of the Forest and of Dawson-grove, together with a great extent of country and distant improvements; with some amateurs of sylvan scenery, this hill is said to command the favorite prospect. The new approach will be very handsome when the bridge is finished; though, in the present line to the house, the incorrect idea of receding from the object we mean to approach was adopted, we must pardon the defect, if not approve it, from the sublime and beautiful display of rural charms, which at once burst on the view through numerous vistas, as the long hill is ascended. The effect of this scene is more easily felt than can be well expressed: the ascent of the hill is rather tedious; and too barren of scenery until the summit is gained; the contrast is then as great as its effects are most sudden and transcendently magnificent, as from hence is almost a perpendicular fall to the great lake, which is not distinguished, until the woods of Dawson-grove, which lie beyond it, are first taken in: from this view the eye is charmed with floating objects in various directions, and here is comprised the richest prospect of forest waving over the spacious river, expanding into lakes of the smoothest surface, whose banks are charmingly indented by the generous hand of nature. Within the demesne, a spa has lately been

been discovered, which in taste exactly resembles the waters at Swandingbar, and seem full as powerful; the strong smell peculiar to these waters led to the discovery in a hard frost, when the waters of the lakes had several feet of ice, yet was not this still stream at all frozen; the waters were uncommonly clear, and cold, and were covered with a thick mineral and copper-coloured scum.

The deer-park possesses all that wildness, which is so suitable in such an inclosure, and so highly corresponds with the *contour* of this demesne. These lands are situate very high above the other grounds, in pasture and variety of shade and shelter are excellent for deer, and have been celebrated for producing the finest venison.

On the whole, whether we view Bellamont forest in the early bloom of spring, while nature is not yet completely unfolded; or in summer, when the rich luxuriance of the groves is as inviting to the eye, as their shelter, and the cooling breezes from the lakes are grateful to the other senses; or in autumn, when the rural scenery is crowned with all that variety of colour, which creates such innumerable shades; or in winter, when the more silent snow-scene, clothed in a thousand beauties peculiar to itself, hushes all nature to repose, and is contrasted with the awful sound of the tempest, whose unhospitable blasts are loudly reechoed through the groves; we are lost in admiration at the wonderful

ful works of nature; and we must admire this delightful scene, which is so little indebted to art for its numerous charms, and whose beauties must have an eminent and particular estimation among the demesnes of Ireland, so long as the lavish and unrestrained hand of the former must hold her just pre-eminence over the mimic powers of the latter, which are never more deficient than in her attempts to copy from so fair an original.

CHAP. XII.

RELATING TO THE COUNTY AT LARGE.

RURAL ECONOMY.

SECTION I.

Labour.

IN this, as in the neighbouring county of Monaghan, labour is little in demand, as these counties are subdivided into so numerous small farms; the loom, not the business of agriculture, being the main dependance, and each family is generally equal to cultivate the lands they hold. The average value of labour from the cottier is seven pence per day, and from the spalpeen or hired labourer, ten pence; the woman's labour, in the field, five pence to six pence; but her assistance is only required in harvest, or in the digging out of the potatoe crop.

SECT.

SECT. 2. *Provisions.*

The principal support being potatoes and oatmeal, of course these articles are cheap, as they are so very plentifully produced, and the nine-tenths of arable land is under their culture. Wheat-meal is dear, and flour is imported from Louth, Longford, and Meath. Beef and mutton rates full as high as in Dublin market.

Poultry are seldom seen in such perfection as in Dublin market, and could be cheaper supplied there, if we take the condition of the fowl into account. The Dublin poulters regularly stroll through this county, and considerably tend to encrease the high price of fowl. Geese in very bad order sell for 2s. 2d. to 2s. 8½d. per pair; turkeys in like order, 3s. to 4s.; ducks, 2od.; barn-door fowl, 2od.; chickens from 6d. to 1s. Of fish, such as pike, eel, and trout, they have abundance in their own lakes, and hawkers regularly supply them with cod-fish, from three halfpence to two pence per pound; salmon, herrings, &c. are brought here in abundance.

Wheat will average 30s. per barrel; barley 18s. to 20s.; oatmeal 12s. per cwt. and potatoes 2d. per stone, for seven years rates, the two years of extraordinary scarcity not taken into account.

The

The average return of the wheat acre may be seven barrels, but very little is cultivated; of oats twelve; of barley twelve; of potatoes one hundred and forty barrels, reduced to twenty stones per barrel; of potatoe land, four pounds per acre; of flax land, six guineas; and the average value or present rents of Cavan do not exceed 20s. per acre; but it must be considered, that all these advantages in point of fertility of the county, and in cheapness of rent, tend to the service of the linen manufacture, as not one-tenth part of Cavan is ever looked to for the purpose of making money by farming, but merely to produce the flax and the provisions for the manufacturers.

SECT. 3. *Fuel.*

In general, fuel is in the greatest abundance, and of a very fine kind. It can be reared on the bog on an average through the county, for 10s. the hundred statute kishes, rent and labour inclusive.

The tracts of bog are so numerous they are contiguous enough to the residence, and the expense of carriage makes but a small addition to this rate.

C H A P. XIII.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

SECTION 1.

Roads.

This county is extremely ill supplied with materials for road-making, and in the old lines there was no judicious selection for roads, but the most formidable hills were encountered, if in the straight direction. The new lines shew, that much of the hills can be avoided by winding through the vallies; but in the general reports of the county roads, it must be confessed that they are injudiciously made and worse kept.

SECT. 2. & 3. *Fairs and weekly markets.*

The fairs of Cavan are principally for young cattle, from yearlings to three years old, both black cattle and horses.

The

The markets have no grain exposed to sale, of provisions oatmeal principally, and are only remarkable for the sale of yarn, flax, and webs.

The average sale of linens manufactured and sold in Cavan County may be rated to value seventy thousand pounds, and above twenty thousand more goes to market without the county; so that nearly one hundred thousand pounds worth is manufactured within the county. Some years this export has been increased, before the emigration to America of the manufacturers, and when there was a steady and brisk demand for our linens.

SECT. 4. *Commerce and Manufactures.*

Some estimate may be formed of the subject in the foregoing clause, by the following return of the capability of the several bleach-greens of the county; but it must be observed, if, of the webs which are finished here, many are purchased in foreign markets, much more of the webs of this county's manufacture are also purchased by other bleachers.

THE COUNTY BLEACH-GREENS.

Place.	Proprietors.	Number of pieces bleached.
Cootshill market,	Messrs. Thos. Eyre Powell,	16,900
Ditto,	Brabazon Brunker,	132,900
Ditto,	Thos. Brunker,	8000
Ditto,	Sam. Cunnyaghams,	8000
Ditto,	Joseph Browne,	4000
Ditto,	John Lee,	5000
Ditto,	William Spear,	8000
Ditto,	R. George,	4000
Killeshandra,	J. Benison,	10,000
Ditto,	A. Pallas,	8000
Ditto,	Wm. Neal,	4000
Ditto,	J. Sloane,	4000
	Total pieces,	<u>91,000</u>

As a considerable number of these pieces are sheetings, we cannot rate the ninety-one thousand pieces, great and small, at less than 30s. per piece; and at this valuation the estimate of capital employed, when the greens are full, will appear to be forty-five thousand five hundred pounds.

The principal grievance, which yet oppresses the trade, is the high rate of discount between specie and bank

bank notes; but this will, of course, soon find its *quietus*: nor is it a secondary cause of the small demand for our linen in foreign markets, that so much mischief has been done to webs in the bleaching by some quacking practitioners in chemistry, who should be well experienced in that art, before a regular and approved system, which has succeeded in a due course of time in the process of whitening our linent, should be innovated by new modes, which are hastily adopted from their quick operation, and which for said reason should above all others be most suspected!

C H A P. XIV.
G E N E R A L T A B L E S.

SECTION I.

Table of the average rates of meadow, potatoes, flax-lands, and wages.

BARONIES.	Rate of potatoe and flax land per acre.		Rate of meadow per acre.		Wages.	g.d. per day through the year.
	from 3 to 4 guineas	from 4 to 6 guineas	from 3 to 4 pounds	from 4 to 6 guineas		
Tullaghonohoh,	from 4 to 5 guineas	from 4 to 6 guineas	from 3 to 4 pounds	from 4 to 6 guineas	9d. ditto.	9d. ditto.
Clonmoghan,	from 4 to 5 guineas	from 4 to 6 guineas	from 3 to 4 pounds	from 4 to 6 guineas	9d. ditto.	9d. ditto.
Loughtee,	from 5 to 7 guineas	from 6 to 8 guineas	from 3 to 4 pounds	from 6 to 8 guineas	1s. ditto.	1s. ditto.
Castleraghan,	from 4 to 5 guineas	from 3 to 4 guineas	from 3 to 4 pounds	from 3 to 4 guineas	9d. ditto.	9d. ditto.
Clonhee,	from 4 to 5 guineas	from 3 to 4 guineas	from 3 to 4 pounds	from 3 to 4 guineas	9d. ditto.	9d. ditto.
Tullagharry,	from 5 to 8 guineas	from 4 to 6 guineas	from 4 to 6 pounds	from 4 to 6 guineas	1s. ditto.	1s. ditto.

By the rate of meadow is meant the value of the hay yielded per acre, as it is most usually sold by bulk in the cock.

Sect.

SECTION II.

TABLE OF THE AVERAGE OF TITHE IN EACH BARONY.

BARONIES.	Rate's per acre.			Meadow and Flax per Quantities.	Average value of arable and pasture together.
	Wheat.	Potats.	Bere and Barley.		
Tullaghha,	6s. od.	4s. 6d.	6s. od.	os. 6d.	10s. od.
Tullaghonoho,	- - -	8s. od.	6s. od.	8s. od.	10s. od.
Clonmoghan,	- - -	8s. od.	6s. od.	8s. od.	15s. od.
Loughree,	- - -	10s. od.	8s. od.	10s. od.	30s. od.
Castleraghan,	- - -	8s. od.	6s. od.	8s. od.	15s. od.
Clonchee,	- - -	8s. od.	6s. od.	8s. od.	15s. od.
Tullaghgarvy	- - -	8s. od.	8s. od.	8s. od.	20s. od.

Potatoes are universally free; by the average value is meant the worth of the good and bad lands together, but some of these lands are set above their value, others far below: however much higher rents than this valuation could be had from solvent tenants.

Sect. 3. Table of Towns and Villages.

BARONIES.	TOWNS.	VILLAGES.
Tullagha,	Ballyconnell, M. P. 3.	Ballymagowran, Bawnboy, Derryolim, Largy, Swanlingbar, Woodford,
Tullaghonoho,	Killeshandra, M. P. 3.	Arvagh, Kilmore, Scraba,
Clonmoghan,	Crofdoney,	Ballinanagh, Ballintemple, Kilgolah, Kilnaleck, Mount-Nugent,
Loughtee,	Ballyhaise, M. Belturbet, M. P. 3. Cavan, M.P. 6.	Arghill, Ballinacarig, Butler's-bridge, Stradone,
Gastleraghan,	Virginia, Ballyjamesduff,	Daly's-bridge, Kill, Mullogh,
Clonchee,	Ballyborough, M. P. 6. King's-court, M. Shercock, M.	Muff, Wiltown,
Tullaghgarvy,	Coote-hill, M. P. 6.	Ballinacarry, Red-hills, Tullyvin.

M denotes a market—P a post-town, and the figure marks the number of days, on which the post comes in from Dublin.

Sect.

SECTION 4.

Alphabetical List of Fairs.

Arvagh (25th March) (1st May) (8th June) (1st Nov.)
 Ballyborough (17th Feb.) (17th May) (15th June) (17th Aug.) (14th Oct.) (17 Nov.)
 Ballyconnell (13th Feb.) (17th March) (16th May) (24th June) (29th July) 29th Sep.) (25th Oct.) (3d Dec.)
 Ballyhaise (1st March) (18th May) (13th July) (30th Aug.) (6th Nov.) (13th Dec.).
 Ballyhiland (21st May) (7th June).
 Ballyjamesduff (7th May) 17th July) 26th Oct.) (21st Dec.)
 Ballymagowran (23d Feb.) (23d May) (12th Aug.) (4th Oct.)
 (22nd Nov.)
 Ballynacarrig (12th Feb.) (12th May) (6th Aug.) (22nd Nov.)
 Ballynagh (24th March) (10th April) (5th June) (5th Aug.)
 (3d Oct.) (21st Dec.)
 Belturbet (10th Feb.) (21st May) (12th June) (31st July)
 (4th Sep.) 17th Nov.)
 —————Race (17th May) (3d June).
 Cavan (1st Feb.) (14th May) (14th Aug.) (25th Sep.)
 12th Nov.).
 Cootchill (12th March) (9th June) (12th Sep.) (6th Dec.)

Cross.

Crossdoney (5th April) (27th May) (26th Aug.) 17th Nov.)
Doobally (26th May) (15th Aug.)
Kilgoguy (5th Feb.) (25th May) (3d Aug.) 5th Nov.)
Kilgolah (17th Jan.) (17th March) (26th April) (27th Nov.)
Killeshandra (28th March) (22nd June) (24th Aug.) (8th Nov.)
Kilnaleek (2d Feb.) (13th May) (11th June) (10th Aug.) (1st Nov.) (17th Dec.)
King's Court (23d May) (18th June) (1st Aug.) (19th Sep.) (8th Nov.) (4th and 24th Dec.)
Largy (22nd May) 22nd July) (22nd Sep.) (19th Nov.)
Mount-Nugent (1st June) (21st Oct.)
Muff (12th Aug.)
Redhills (1st Jan.) (24th May) (24th July) 24th Oct.)
Scraby (10th Feb.) (15th May) (1st Aug.) (11th Dec.)
Shercock (16th May) (2d June).
Stradone (23d March) (24th June) (16th Aug.) (16th Oct.) (18th Dec.)
Swanlingbar (1st Feb.) (30th March) (12th April) (18th May) (9th June) (27th July) (13th Oct.) (27th Nov.) (21st Dec.)
Tullyvin (9th March) (4th May) (5th July) (26th Aug.) (11th Dec.)
Virginia (12th April) (9th July) (23d Sep.) (21st Nov.)

SECTION 5.

ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF THE

PRINCIPAL LANDED PROPRIETORS.

ADAMS, Cosby Esq.

_____, James Esq.

_____, O'Reilly Esq.

_____, Rev. Allen Noble

_____, Rev. Benjamin

_____, Stewart Esq.

Annesley, Rev. Dean

_____, Right Hon. Earl of

Armstrong, —— Esq.**BAKER, John Esq.**

_____, Robert Esq.

Barry, Colonel John

_____, Thomas, Esq.

Battersby, ——, Esq.**Bell, Andrew Esq.**

_____, Richard Esq.

Benison, John Esq.**Berry, Thomas Esq.****Betty, William, Esq.**

Blackwood,

A STATISTICAL SURVEY TO

Blackwood, James Esq.

_____, Richard Esq.

Blashford, ____ Esq.

Booth, Richard Bell Esq.

Brooke, Rev. Richard

Brunker, Thomas Esq.

Bryant, Alexander Esq.

_____, Robert Esq.

CALDWELL, Sir John Bart.

Campbell, Wm. Esq. representatives of,

Canning, George Esq.

Carson, Thomas Esq.

Clements, Henry Esq.

_____, Theophilus, Esq.

Coghill, Sir — Bart.

Coote, Charles Esq.

Copeland, John Jones Esq.

Corbet, Patrick Esq.

Corlismore, — Esq.

Corry, Thomas Charles Stewart Esq.

Cosby, Major

Cottingham, Reverend Doctor

Crawford, James Esq.

Crofton, Sir Hugh Bart.

DAVENPORT, Simon Esq.

Dawson, Townly, Esq. representatives of,

Dease, — Esq.

De Blaquiere, Right Hon. Lord

Doughty

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

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Doughty, Robert Esq. ~~and George~~

Doyle, George, Esq. ~~and John~~

ELLIOTT, John, Esq.

Ellis, — Esq.

—, Gore, Esq.

Emery, —, Esq.

Ennis, Thomas, Esq.

FARIS, Alexander Esq.

—, — Esq.

Farnham, Right Hon. Earl of

Fleming, Arthur Esq.

—, Thomas Esq.

—, — Esq.

Foster, Henry Esq.

GAVEN, — Esq.

Gosford, Right Hon. Lord

Griffon, William, Esq.

HARMAN, Ralph, Esq.

—, William Esq.

Hassard, Jason Esq.

Headford, Most Noble Marquis of

Hinds, Walter Esq.

Hodgson, Sir Robert Bart.

Hume, Robert Esq.

JACKSON, Mrs.

Jones, Humphrey Esq.

Jones,

STATISTICAL SURVEY

Jones, John Moutray Esq.

Irwin, Richard Esq.

—, William Esq.

KELETT, Robert Esq.

Kilmore, Reverend Dean of

—, Right Reverend Bishop of

LANAUZE, — Esq.

Lanesborough, Right Hon. Earl of,

M'CARTNEY, Miss

—, Mrs.

Magrath, Luke Esq.

Maxwell, Henry Esq.

Mayne, Edward Esq.

Mee, — Esq.

Montgomery, George Esq. representatives of

Moore, Garrett Esq.

—, William Esq.

Morton, Charles, Esq.

NESBITT, Colonel Thomas

—, Rev. Albert

Nixon, George Esq.

—, Humphrey Esq.

Newburgh, Arthur Esq.

—s, minors Esqrs.

Nugent, Christopher Esq.

Nugent,

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN.

Nugent, Colonel
_____, Oliver Esq.

O'REILY, Anthony, Esq.
_____, James Esq.
_____, — Esq.

PALLIS, Christopher Esq.

Percival, — Esq.

Pleydell, Jonathan Morton Esq.

Powell, Thomas Eyre Esq.

Pratt, James Esq.

—, Rev. Joseph

RADCLIFFE, — Esq.

Richardson, Sir Wm. Bart.

_____, Wm. Esq.

Roberts, Rev. Edward S.

Ruxton, Wm. Esq.

SAUNDERS, Major

Saunderson, James Esq.
_____, Francis Esq.

_____, Robert Esq.

Singleton, John Esq.

Smyth, Mrs.

Sneyd, Nathaniel Esq.
_____, Rev. William

Somerville, — Esq.

Southwell, Hon. Colonel

Spencer,

Spencer, Joshua Esq.

Stanford, John Esq.

Staples, Sir Robert Bart.

Stephens, William Esq.

Story, Rev. Joseph

TATLOW, John Esq.

Thornton, Perrott Esq.

VEITCH, John Esq.

——— Esq. representatives of

WATERFORD, Most Noble Marquis of

Whyte, Francis Esq.

Wills, —— Esq.

Wynne, Owen Esq.

YOUNG, James Esq.

———, John Esq.

CHAP XV.

FARMING SOCIETY.

THERE had not been any farming society in Cavan, at the time I was collecting the materials for this survey; however I now learn, that a society is established at Bawnboy, of which Mr. Sneyd is president, who represents the county.

So important are the advantages resulting from the meetings and communications of experimental and judicious farmers, that they should meet every encouragement. No part of Cavan is less engaged in manufacture, than the vicinity of the members of this new society; nor are there any lands so favourably disposed for improvement, if we consider the small rents, and the valuable change, which is wrought on the soil of this hilly region by a small application of lime, and a little persevering industry. The encouragement now held out by the farming society of Ireland, to the minor establishments, will be doubtless no small incentive to us to cultivate our lands, and bring into immediate profit those valuable resources, which have lain too long neglected,

glected, though possessing capabilities enough to procure true wealth and independence.

The utility and important benefits, which result from the correspondence with societies of agriculture, are clear, because by their different reports of soil our theory is perfect against the time, when we shall have occasion to put into practice the knowledge we have acquired from their communications; for, although the first principles of agriculture will hold good in every country, yet the true methods of their application must vary, according to the nature of the soil. The more extensive are those societies, the greater knowledge will be acquired, and the more rapidly it will be diffused.

Vain indeed would be the exertions of the experimental farmer, and useless would be the valuable tracts of husbandry, which are offered to the public, if a general and laudable spirit of emulation in the culture of our lands, and in the improvement of our stock, did not almost universally prevail, which the wise and enlightened government so meritoriously encourages, and which, that their example may be more effectual, are almost individually and extensively engaged in.

Under such auspices, agriculture must flourish, science must be enlarged, and the lethargy, which too long sealed up our ideas, of this most important of all concerns, is at length dispelled; and in the happy hours of returning peace we must expect, that the legal bonds and restrictions

tions, which have hitherto preserved all those absurd and ridiculous customs, to which we have too fondly been attached, and which have too long oppressed the fertility of our soil, will give way to the real interests of the nation, which are and ever will be inseparably interwoven with the prosperity of her husbandry.

C H A P. XVI.

CONCLUSION.

FROM the neglect of the valuable and extensive tracts, which now deserve no better distinction than inhospitable, unpopulated, and barren wastes, this county does not raise corn sufficient for its own supply, though the soil is capable of so high improvement, as to yield full one-third greater produce.

Nor would it be an unfair calculation to assert, that the rentals might be fully increased in the same proportion, if the spirit of industry, which must first spring from the landlords themselves, would more generally prevail: until their example leads the way, such an alteration might be dangerous to the manufacture, and particularly so to the proprietor. The great misfortune to this county is, that nature has denied that revigorating manure of lime, which so powerfully changes the soil; a navigation only could supply a sufficiency on easy terms.

Flax culture is miserably followed; draining is totally neglected: a little attention to inclosures, which shew so little care, is now particularly required; nor should the better repairs of the county roads be a secondary consideration.

I now

OF THE COUNTY OF CAVAN. 293

I now beg leave to make my best acknowledgments to the gentlemen of this county, who have so kindly assisted me with their intelligent and polite communications, and with every wish for the prosperity of this county,

I have the honour to be,

Their most obedient,

And very humble servant,

CHARLES COOTE.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

An Account of Premiums adjudged by the Dublin Society, for Planting in the County of Cavan, since the Year 1786, where security has been given to preserve the same for ten years from the date of the grant.

To whom	For what.	Acre.	" Q	Report of present state.
William Faris,	Fencing coppice woods.	45	1789	In good preservation.
Ditto.	Ditto.	18	1790	Ditto.
John Young,	Ditto	16	1790	Ditto.
Rev. Wm. Moore,	Planting Danish Forts, 40 perches planted 45 perches inclosed	1790		Ditto.
John Piers,	Ditto	22 perches planted 12 perches inclosed	1790	Very bad, almost quite destroyed
Henry Foster,	Inclosing plantations,	11	1791	In great heart and vigour, well protected, and capitally inclosed.
Humphrey Nixon,	Ditto	10	1791	In good preservation.
Thomas Butler,	Copping woods	12	1793	Well inclosed, but cattle are now admitted, which do much damage; the copse was otherwise thriving.
Henry Foster,	Inclosing plantations	13	1794	Mr. Foster's plantations are in the fullest vigour. The inspection of this Report was made in 1801, 1802.
				CHARLES COOTE.

*References to and Explanations of the Rev. Mr. Cooke's
newly improved patent Drill Machine. **

The superior merits of the present improved machine, compared with the old one, consist

1st. In the wheels (B. B. fig. 1.) being so large, that the machine can travel on any road without trouble, or danger of breaking; also from the farm to the field, &c. without taking to pieces; requiring only half the draught which the old machine requires.

2dly. In the coulter beam (C. C. fig. 1, with all the coulters) moving with great ease to the right or left, on a principle of the pentagraph, by which means the drills may be made strait; and where lands or ridges are made four feet and a half, or nine feet and a half wide, the horse may always go in the furrow, without setting a foot on land, either in drilling or horse-hoeing.

3dly. In the seed supplying itself regularly, without any attention, from the upper to the lower boxes, as it is distributed.

4thly. In lifting the pin M on the coulter beam to a hook L on the axis of the wheels; by which means the coulters are kept out of the ground at the end of the land, without the least labour or fatigue to the person, who attends the machine.

5thly

* For Plate, See Page 224.

5thly. In going up or down steep hills, the seed-box is elevated or depressed accordingly, so as to render the distribution of the seed regular; and the seed being covered by a lid, is screened from wind or rain.

These are some of the advantages appertaining to the above improved drill; which, though considerable in the process of drilling, are as nothing, compared with those, which arise from the use of the horse-hoe; of which it may suffice to say, that from eight to ten acres are commonly hoed in one day, with one man, a boy, and a horse, at the trifling expence of six pence or eight pence an acre, in a style far superior to, and more effectual, than any hand-hoeing whatever; also performed at times and seasons when it is impossible for the hand-hoe to be used at all.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

Further Considerations on the State of the Poor.

AMONG the various subjects, which have been considered, I feel it necessary to say a few words more on the most important concern of all, which is the condition of the poor; for it will require little thought to convince us, that the wealth, the happiness, and the peace of the nation, must depend on an amelioration of their truly deplorable state.

Too little indeed have their miseries occupied our attention, than which no grievance more particularly requires redress, as well on the score of sound policy, as in obedience to the dictates of humanity.

I shall venture a little reasoning on this subject, and endeavour to shew, how much it is the interest of the community in general, as well as of the *landed proprietor* in particular, to heartily engage in so important a concern; for surely the welfare of that class of people ought to be considered, *whose labour and industry are our main dependence, and whose comforts insure peace, prosperity, and content at home,*

From

From our present close connection with the sister country, their interests are now deeply interwoven with ours, and we shall doubtless soon see their earnest exertions for the improvement and civilization of Ireland; and it cannot be denied, that the preliminary step must be the correction of the greatest nuisance, which surely is the unhappy situation of the poor.

I shall be very brief in these remarks, which with great zeal and diffidence I venture to offer, nor will I attempt a particular recapitulation of sorrows; such a melancholy picture would only serve as a national reproach, for I do not here confine myself to any particular place, but allude to the condition of the poor throughout Ireland: I shall only say, in beholding their poverty we swell the magnitude of our own neglect, in not having long since redressed it.

It is evident, that we either had not the means of affording this redress, or that we have been cruelly deaf to the calls of humanity.

The former thesis will not be easily demonstrated, and as the latter will hardly meet investigation, let it, in charity, be obscured in the shade of that policy, which we must resort to; for the critical moment is arrived, when we are obliged, for our own particular interest, to adopt measures for the relief and civilization of the poor, or consign the task into the hands of a British legislature, who will feel the imperious necessity of enacting poor rates, and in their formation may justly

justly retort as severely on the rich, as they have hitherto shewn a supineness towards such a laudable institution. In England, this salutary measure has become a serious burthen, by the admission and sufferance of abuses; we have the advantage of distinguishing those evils in the formation of *our* poor laws, and of steering clear of them; and without a hearty co-operation of the wealthy and industrious part of the community, to work out and support a fit and proper establishment, all those evils and burthens would also gradually creep in upon us.

As I trust the importance of this measure already occupies a good deal of attention, so various methods or plans must be in contemplation; but I think the leading step to its accomplishment might be, by the legislature investing grand juries with power to levy a sum of money for the commencement of the business; it would most probably be successful, if all individual emolument, or, in other words, if *jobbing* was steadily banished in the formation of the system; and a certain small levy on every capable person of the community, (within certain ages) would be a very fair mode of assessment to complete the fund. I very earnestly recommend a serious perusal of Mr. Pew's advice* on this subject, from which sufficient hints might be collected to form a plan truly effective, without being at all burthensome or partial to any class of people.

The

* See page 53 in this book.

The wages of the peasant are not in a fair proportion to the increased value and rise on the produce of the land; on a judicious reform in this particular much depends, and, it should be attempted with great caution; for, although a very considerable increase is requisite, yet it should be gradual and progressive; for if too liberally and too suddenly extended, it will certainly have a contrary tendency, and only increase his dissolute manners, which might enable him to be lavish in dissipation, of course encourage idleness, and would ultimately injure more than relieve his wife and children.

The best means might be gradually effected by increasing his wages by a little, and let him not touch that increase, which should be handed over to the collector by his employer, and have as little as possible to do with parish officers. To depend on these gentry, as in England, is a miserable resource; or to suffer the inhuman practice of farming out the poor, would be only adopting greater evils, to correct a comparatively lesser one; and I believe it would be better for the community at large in that country, to have these poor laws totally repealed, and depend on a general regular contribution for their support, than to allow a continuation of the abuses, which have crept in, and have now established a legal imposition of greater burthen by far than tithes and many other taxes added together. The idea of farming out the poor is a reproach to a nation,

the

the base of whose constitution is freedom, and it is no less a disgrace to humanity.

Let not the exposition of evils in a system, which was founded in charity, be pleaded as a bugbear to the establishment of a similar plan, no less merciful than politic; the magnitude of these evils is so conspicuous, that they can be avoided, and the basis of the new system should be *general and impartial contribution*, so that every individual in the community, capable of employment, should be obliged to subscribe a certain weekly sum towards that fund, which would then become their own property, and to which they would have a legal claim in the hour of distress.

It requires but very little consideration to know, that the wages of the peasantry are inadequate to their support—how frequently may we see a poor labourer, with five, or six, or more children, who with his wife are entirely dependent on the miserable pittance of from six pence to ten pence a day, out of which every article of life must be procured, his wife being occupied in the care of so numerous an infant family? It is then on him alone they all depend; and are his utmost exertions in the time of health adequate to procure them food? But, should sickness overtake him, how truly deplorable is the situation of that wretched family, who must either beg or steal for a miserable existence? for the boasted constitution of this country affords them no protection. The afflicted father is too poor to contract debts,

debts, which it is impossible he should be able to repay; hence the source of rebellion and discontent; hence rages the mania for emigration; hence it is, that the children of the peasant, which are in other countries his wealth, are his incumbrance in this; and hence it is, that our great population is the source of our national poverty.

Let it not be asserted, that the national pride would resist the benefits, which might be derived from this salutary proposed measure; I know that the peasants of Ireland have a commendable pride, and that many of them would suffer the most poignant distress, rather than be indebted for their relief to charitable institutions; but in their applications to an establishment, whose funds are supported by their own contributions, there could be nothing derogatory to their pride, and they only resort to the general flock purse in the day of want.

It is by the adoption of such a plan, that the present miserable situation of the industrious peasant would be made truly comfortable; every class of the community would soon be pleased, that there was an obligation on them to contribute to the general support; for the salutary effects of the measure would be quickly felt, and gratefully acknowledged.

Nor would the collection of these sums be any troublesome matter, nor scarce any expense attending the establishment; one officer to each parish would be quite

quite sufficient, and the person, who gives the employment, ought to be empowered to stop the weekly proportion of each person's wages, which should be handed to the treasurer, who would give security for the trust, and pay interest for the money remaining in his hands. A committee of the parishioners should be chosen at regular periods; to inspect the funds and disbursements, which should be reported every meeting.

Let us now consider the happy change, which such an institution would soon effect; let us behold the peasant, after his daily labour, returning to his comfortable fire-side, and enjoying the cheerful countenances of his happy family; he feels his home now endeared to him, which was lately the seat of sickness and squalid poverty; when thus the necessities of life are supplied, and the sweets of comfort and independence tasted, civilization will rapidly follow with commendable emulation, and that ignorant and gross superstition, which is now the idol of the poor, will fall before the light of reason, which will soon prevail even with the children of the present generation; for it cannot be denied, that the love of learning is one of the strongest features in the national character.

Independent of the pleasing feelings resulting from such an institution, as would better the condition of our fellow-creatures, we will find also our best policy to adopt it, by doing away the necessity of perhaps a more rigid system, the burthen of which may fall entirely on

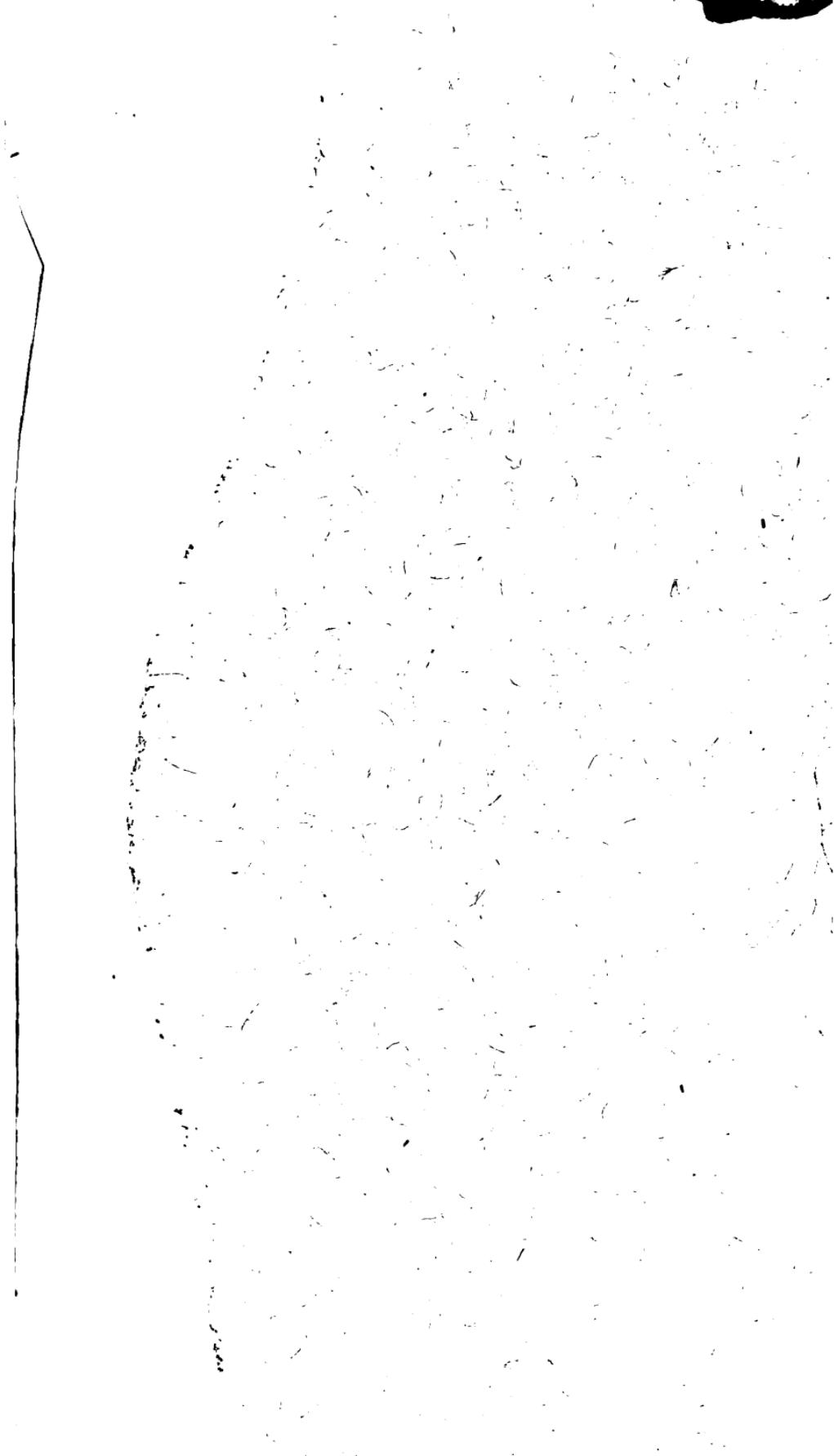
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one class; for that something must be done very speedily, is self evident.

I now submit my imperfect ideas on this subject, and would only suggest the propriety of county meetings, to take the matter into serious consideration, and to instruct their representatives to apply to parliament for their aid, towards the attainment of so great and important a concern; and which assistance will be surely granted. In our reduced representation, and in the happy hour of returning peace, there is less of politics to agitate us; let us therefore bestow some attention on our internal maladies; how far constitutional it may be to propose tests to the candidates at elections for supporting popular measures, I do not presume to say; but if ever a test was excusable, it is surely in so humane and necessary a cause, as the emancipation of the poor: I trust it would find no opposition, as it would doubtless meet the views of every candidate, who is warmed by that patriotism, which he is ambitious to have the power of cultivating, and of every gentleman, who is zealous in the cause of humanity, which in this instance his co-operation would truly serve.



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